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## STATE OF EMPLOYMENT IN OCTOBER.

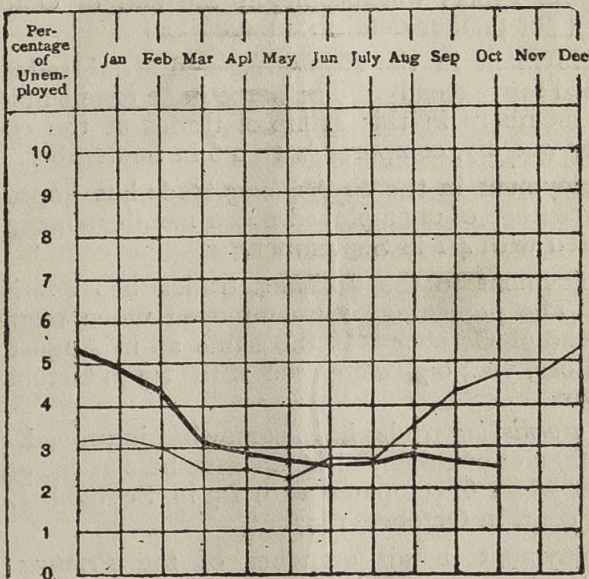
[Based on 2,410 returns, viz.: 1,702 from Employers, 553 from Trade Unions, and 155 from other sources.]

EMPLOYMENT in October continued good, and showed a slight improvement compared with the previous month, especially in the printing and cotton trades. Compared with a year ago, when the engineering dispute was in progress, the general figures show a marked improvement.

In the 118 trade unions making returns, with an aggregate membership of 469,016, 11,857 (or 2.5 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of October, compared with 2.6 per cent. in September, and with 4.7 per cent. in the 113 unions, with a membership of 463,002, from which returns were received for October, 1897 (during the engineering dispute).

The following chart enables a comparison to be made with last year:—

Chart showing the percentage of unemployed members of the trade unions making returns at the close of each completed month of 1897 and 1898. [The thick line applies to 1898, the thin line to 1897.]



The table below classifies the membership of the 118 unions making returns according to the percentage proportion of their members that each union had unemployed at the end of the under-mentioned periods:—

Percentage of members unemployed.	At end of October, 1898.		Corresponding Percentages for		
	Number of Unions making Returns.	Total Membership of such Unions.		A Month ago.	A Year ago.
		Number.	Per-centage.		
Under 1 per cent. ...	34	151,125	32.2	31.6	21.2
1 and under 2 per cent. ...	21	54,661	11.7	11.7	18.7
2 " 3 " ...	17	123,811	26.4	23.6	6.2
3 " 5 " ...	28	116,021	24.7	24.6	27.3
5 " 7 " ...	6	12,442	2.7	5.6	6.2
7 " 10 " ...	3	3,454	0.7	1.8	4.8
10 per cent. and upwards	9	7,502	1.6	1.1	15.6
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>469,016</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Employment in Various Industries.—Coal Mining.**—Pits in districts other than South Wales and Monmouthshire, employing 372,893 workpeople, worked on



an average 5.44 days per week in the four weeks ended October 22nd, as compared with 5.37 days in September, and 5.36 days in October, 1897. In South Wales and Monmouth employment was about the same as a year ago. (For further details see page 331.)

**Iron Mining.**—Employment in this industry was not quite so good in October as in September or a year ago. At 133 mines and open works at which 17,287 persons were employed, an average of 5.73 days per week was worked during the four weeks ended October 22nd, as compared with 5.82 days per week in September, and 5.88 days per week in October, 1897. (For further details see page 331.)

**Pig Iron Industry.**—Returns relating to the works of 109 ironmasters show a further improvement in employment during October. At the end of the month they had 356 furnaces in blast, and were employing an estimated number of 23,353 persons, or 3 more furnaces and 233 more persons employed than at the end of September, and 6 more furnaces and 912 more persons employed than at the end of October, 1897. (For further details see page 332.)

**Iron and Steel Trades.**—Employment has further improved, and continues better than a year ago. Returns relating to the works of 204 employers show that 79,930 workpeople were employed in the last week of October, as compared with 79,242 in the last week of September, and 78,111 in the last week of October, 1897. The average number of shifts worked in the last week of the month was 5.57 in October, 1898; 5.53 in September, 1898; and 5.55 in October, 1897. (For further details see page 332.)

**Tinplate Trade.**—Employment in this industry has further improved, but the total number employed continues less than a year ago. At the end of October 296 mills were at work, giving employment to 14,945 workpeople, as compared with 286 mills, employing 14,664 workpeople at the end of September, and 293 mills, employing 15,255 workpeople, at the end of October, 1897. (For further details see page 332.)

Employment in the **Engineering and Metal** trades has remained fairly steady. The percentage of unemployed union members in this group of trades at the end of October was 2.7, compared with 2.6 in September.\*

Employment in the **Shipbuilding** trade has improved, the percentage of unemployed union members being 3.7, compared with 4.1 in September.\*

Employment in the **Building** trades has continued brisk. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of October was the same as in August and September, viz., 0.9, compared with 1.7 in October of last year.

The **Furnishing** trades have somewhat improved. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of October was 1.6, compared with 1.9 in September, and 2.2 per cent. in October, 1897.

Employment in all branches of the **Printing and Bookbinding** trades has improved. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of October was 3.3, compared with 4.6 in September. The percentage for October, 1897, was 3.5.

In the **Paper** trade employment is scarcely so good, the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of October being 4.1, compared with 3.6 in September, and with 2.9 per cent. in October, 1897.

In the **Glass** trade the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of October was 15.2, compared with 10.5 in October, 1897.

Employment in the **Leather** trades has improved, the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of October being 4.9, compared with 5.4 in September. The percentage for October, 1897, was 3.9.

Employment in the bespoke branch of the **Boot and Shoe** trade has somewhat improved. In the ready-

\* Owing to the dispute which existed in the engineering trade, no comparison is made with October, 1897.

made branch employment generally has improved, but is slack in most centres.

Employment has improved in the bespoke branch of the **Tailoring** trade, but is still quiet; in the ready-made branch it has improved in some centres, but is slack in London and Leeds.

In the **Cotton** trade employment has improved in both **Spinning and Weaving** branches, and is good generally.

Employment in the **Worsted** trade continues moderate. In the **Woollen** trade it is fair, showing improvement in some branches, and a decline in others. In the **Hosiery** trade employment has improved, and is fair.

As regards the employment of women in the **Textile** trades, information respecting 533 mills, employing 88,800 women and girls, shows that 83 per cent. were in mills giving full employment during the month, compared with 77 per cent. in September, and 65 per cent. in October, 1897. (For further details see page 335.)

**Dock and Riverside Labour in London.**—In the four weeks ended October 22nd, an average number of 15,826 labourers were employed daily at all the docks and the principal wharves, as compared with 14,490 in the preceding four weeks, and 16,074 in the corresponding period of 1897. (For further details see page 335.)

**Agricultural labourers** were generally well employed in October in taking up potatoes and roots, ploughing, corn-sowing, and threshing. Owing to the drought which prevailed in the earlier part of the autumn in many districts, farm work generally got into arrears, and, consequently, there was plenty of employment in October. (For further details see page 333.)

**Trade Disputes.**—Fifty-four fresh disputes occurred in October, 1898, involving 12,577 workpeople. The corresponding number of disputes for September was 52, involving 7,644 workpeople, and for October, 1897, 39 disputes, involving 8,707 workpeople. Eight disputes took place in the building trades, 12 in mining and quarrying, 5 in iron and steel manufacture, 12 in engineering and shipbuilding trades, 4 in other metal trades, 3 in the textile trades, 2 in the transport group, and 8 in other industries. Of the 55 new and old disputes, involving 14,349 workpeople, of which the settlement is reported, 18, involving 7,830 persons, were settled wholly in favour of the workpeople; 16, involving 2,515 persons, wholly in favour of the employers; and 21, involving 4,004 persons, resulted in a compromise. (For further details see page 348.)

**Changes in Rates of Wages.**—Changes in the rates of wages of about 141,000 workpeople were reported during October, of which number 140,300 received advances, and 700 sustained decreases. The net result was an increase estimated at about 8½d. per head in the weekly wages of those affected. The increases were mainly in the mining industry (119,882), engineering and shipbuilding (8,353), and iron and steel manufacture (5,579). Changes affecting 1,600 workpeople were preceded by disputes, causing stoppage of work. A change affecting 1,800 workpeople was arranged by a conciliation board, and three changes affecting about 3,500 workpeople under sliding scales. Changes affecting about 134,100 workpeople were arranged by direct negotiation between employers and workpeople, or conceded voluntarily by the employers. (For further details see page 344.)

**Pauperism.**—In the 35 selected urban districts of the United Kingdom, 323,559 persons were relieved on one day in the second week of October. This number corresponds to a rate of 204 per 10,000 of the estimated population of those districts, or 2 per 10,000 less than a year ago. (For further details see page 347.)

**Emigration.**—The number of British and Irish passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during October was 15,823, as compared with 16,409 in October, 1897. (For further details see page 351.)

**THE WORKING OF THE CONCILIATION ACT (1896).**

THE Conciliation Act which became law on August 7th, 1896, empowered the Board of Trade to take action, under certain conditions, for the settlement of labour disputes. The section of the Act authorising such action is as follows:—

2. (1) Where a difference exists or is apprehended between an employer, or any class of employers and workmen, or between different classes of workmen, the Board of Trade may, if they think fit, exercise all or any of the following powers, namely:—

(a) Inquire into the causes and circumstances of the difference;

(b) Take such steps as to the Board may seem expedient for the purpose of enabling the parties to the difference to meet together, by themselves or their representatives, under the presidency of a chairman mutually agreed upon or nominated by the Board of Trade or by some other person or body, with a view to the amicable settlement of the difference;

(c) On the application of employers or workmen interested, and after taking into consideration the existence and adequacy of means available for conciliation in the district or trade and the circumstances of the case, appoint a person or persons to act as conciliator or as a board of conciliation;

(d) On the application of both parties to the difference, appoint an arbitrator.

(2) If any person is so appointed to act as conciliator, he shall inquire into the causes and circumstances of the difference by communication with the parties, and otherwise shall endeavour to bring about a settlement of the difference, and shall report his proceedings to the Board of Trade.

The total number of disputes, existing or apprehended, in which action by the Board of Trade has been taken or invited under the above section since the passing of the Act has been 59. In the great majority of cases the Board received an application from one or both parties, the number of cases of action without application being only six. In 12 cases the Board received applications from both parties; in 14 cases from the employers only; and in 27 cases from the workmen only. Thus, altogether, 26 separate or joint applications have been made on behalf of the employers, and 39 on behalf of the workmen.

Of the applications made to the Board 11 were refused and one is pending. There remain, therefore, 47 disputes in which action of some kind has been taken. Of these disputes 34 were settled under the Conciliation Act, six were arranged between the parties directly during the course of negotiations, and in the remaining seven cases the action of the Department failed to effect a settlement.

The following table shows particulars of the 47 cases in which action was taken, classified according to groups of trades, and the nature and result of the action taken:—

Trade.	Settled by			Settlement by parties during the negotiations.	Failure to effect a settlement.	Total.
	Appoint-ment of a Con-ciliator.	Con-ciliation by Board of Trade.	Arbitra-tion.			
Building and Allied Trades...	1	2	5	—	3	11
Engineering, Shipbuilding, and Metal Trades ...	—	5	3	3	1	12
Mining and Quarrying ...	3*	2	2	2	2	12
Clothing ...	—	3	—	—	—	4
Textile ...	—	2	—	—	—	3
Printing and Paper ...	1	—	—	—	—	1
Woodworking ...	—	1	—	—	—	1
Pottery ...	—	1	—	—	—	1
Transport ...	—	2	—	1	—	3
Total ...	6	18	10	6	7	47

It will be seen from this table that of the 34 disputes settled under the Act, 24 were arranged by Conciliation and 10 by Arbitration, and that of the disputes settled by Conciliation 6 were dealt with by the appointment of conciliators under 2 (1) (c), and 18 by negotiations by the Board of Trade or its officers.

The following table shows the nature and results of the action taken, classified according to the nature of the application:—

\* In one of these cases the conciliator was subsequently requested by both parties to act as arbitrator.

	Settled under Act by			Settled between parties during negotiations.	Failure to effect settlement.	Total in which action was taken.
	Con-ciliation.	Arbitra-tion.	Appoint-ment of Con-ciliator.			
Application from both parties	—	1	10	1	—	12
Application from Employers only	4	6	—	2	—	12
Application from Workmen only	2	9	—	1	5	17
No application ...	—	2	—	2	2	6
Total ...	6	18	10	6	7	47

The table shows that the great majority of the joint applications from both parties were for the appointment of arbitrators. Practically the whole of the remaining cases were dealt with by conciliation. In one case, however, the Conciliator was voluntarily invested by the parties with the powers of an arbitrator during the course of the negotiations.

In six cases action was taken by the Board of Trade, without application, under Section 2 (1) (b) of the Act, which authorises the Board to endeavour to bring about a Conference between the parties. In one of these cases the dispute was settled between the parties before any action other than inquiry had been taken by the Board; in the other five cases conferences were arranged by the Board of Trade and held, and in two cases a settlement immediately resulted therefrom. The most important case of action by the Board without application from either side was the great engineering dispute, in which a conference between the parties under certain conditions was arranged through the Board of Trade. At this Conference terms of settlement were drawn up which were finally agreed to by the parties with certain notes and explanations, but as the terms were at first rejected by the men, and an interval elapsed between the sittings of the Conference and the termination of the dispute, it has not been classed in the statistics among the disputes settled under the Act.

Of the 34 disputes settled through the action of the Board of Trade, 20 involved actual stoppage of work, about 8,448 persons being affected thereby. The other 14 cases were disputes which appeared likely to lead to stoppages, but in which an actual cessation of work was averted. In these cases it is not possible to state the numbers affected.

Besides the settlement of actual disputes the Board of Trade have taken various steps for the promotion of the work of voluntary Conciliation and Arbitration Boards, e.g. the registration of 18 such Boards under the Act; the appointment of an umpire to a Board in the Boot and Shoe Trade; and the supply of early information to the London Labour Conciliation and Arbitration Board respecting disputes in the London district.

**RE-ORGANISATION OF THE ENGINEERING EMPLOYERS' FEDERATION.**

THE Federated Engineering Employers have now consolidated their organisation on a permanent basis. In 1895 the Clyde and Belfast Employers federated. Early in 1896 the "Employers' Federation of Engineering Associations" was formed, comprising originally the districts of the Clyde, Belfast, North-East Coast and Barrow. The districts of Manchester and Bolton were added early in 1897. In May of that year, in consequence of the demand for an eight hours' day made by the London Joint Committee of Engineering Trade Unions on the London Employers, some of the larger London employers formed an Association, which was at once affiliated to the Federation. When the trade unions attempted to enforce their demands by a partial strike in London, a joint meeting of the Employers' Federation of Engineering Associations, the Associated Shipbuilders, and the Iron Trades Employers' Association was held in Manchester, on July 1st, 1897, at which a common policy of resistance was resolved upon. Accordingly,



throughout the great dispute, the above organisations, together with a number of individual firms not belonging to any of them, acted in concert, under the title of the "Federated Engineering and Shipbuilding Employers," and the terms of settlement by which the dispute was closed were signed, on the employers' side, on behalf of this composite body.

As the area of the dispute widened, a large number of fresh firms and districts gave in their adhesion to the Federated Employers. Thus at the beginning of the lock-out in July, the Employers' Committee represented 7 districts and 180 firms. At the end of the dispute in January, 1898, the districts numbered 35, and the Federated firms 702.

Since the conclusion of the dispute steps have been taken to place on a permanent basis the temporary combination called together by the emergency of the great dispute. On October 27th a final meeting of the Executive Committee of the Federated Employers was held for the winding up of the temporary organisation, followed by a meeting of the representatives elected to the new and enlarged Board.

The reconstructed Federation is a combination of local associations only, each such association or district having a greater or less number of elected representatives on the Central Board. This Board numbers 40 members. Every district represented on the old Executive Committee is included within the permanent Federation.

The President of the Federation is Sir Andrew Noble, K.C.B. (Newcastle and Manchester), the Vice-Presidents, Mr. R. Sinclair Scott (Greenock) and Mr. R. Platt (Oldham). The Secretaries are Messrs. Thomas Biggart and James Robinson.

### STRIKES AND LOCK-OUTS IN 1897.\*

THE tenth annual report of the Board of Trade on strikes and lock-outs, which has recently been issued, gives a detailed statement of each labour dispute, beginning in 1897,† showing where it took place, the occupations, and the numbers of the workpeople affected, the number of establishments involved, and the duration, cause and result. These particulars are summarised in a series of tables, which are again further condensed and brought into comparison with the figures for the years 1893-6. In the general report this is done for the disputes as a whole, but in the detailed report, which follows the general report, each group of trades is separately considered in the light of the available statistics of wages, employment, exports and production. Some account is also given of a few of the more interesting disputes, and the principal disputes of the year are described at length. In the appendices will be found an account of the work done by the various agencies for settling trade disputes, and the text of certain agreements terminating disputes.

In the LABOUR GAZETTE of January last a preliminary summary was published of the numbers of workpeople affected, the causes and the aggregate duration of the trade disputes of 1897. The preliminary figures have been so slightly modified that it is unnecessary again to go into detail on these points in the GAZETTE.

It will be sufficient to give here a short table comparing the numbers of workpeople affected by the disputes in each of the years 1893-7, and the aggregate duration of such disputes in working days:—

Year.	Number of Workpeople affected directly and indirectly.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.
1893	636,386	31,205,062
1894	324,245	9,322,096
1895	265,758	5,542,652
1896	198,687	3,748,525
1897	230,267	10,345,523

\* Report on Strikes and Lock-outs of 1897. C. 9012. Price 1s. 1d.

† Except very small disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, or less than one day's stoppage of work, unless the aggregate duration of such disputes exceeded 100 days. These disputes have, for the first time, been omitted.

The general effect of this table is to show that the aggregate duration of the disputes of 1897 was very large though the number of workpeople involved was below the average.

It is pointed out that the aggregate duration of disputes is not always the same thing as the number of working days actually lost, and various considerations that are to be borne in mind in attempting to estimate the loss of wages on the basis of the duration only are specified.

The report then proceeds to consider the percentage of the working population affected by disputes, and from an analysis of the figures the conclusion is drawn that, in any given year the number of workpeople involved in disputes is very small as compared with the total numbers employed, except, perhaps, in the case of coal mining. The total number of workpeople directly and indirectly affected by trade disputes in 1897 was 230,267, or about 2 per cent. of the total working population.\* In the metal, engineering and shipbuilding group 8·8 per cent. of the workpeople were involved in disputes—an abnormally high proportion, the mean percentage for the last five years being only 4·5. The percentage in the textile trades was 3·0 in 1897. The other trades show quite inconsiderable percentages engaged in labour disputes.

Of the 230,267 workpeople affected by disputes beginning in 1897, 24,412, or 10·6 per cent. were women. Nearly all these women were employed in the textile group of trades. Out of a total of 37,001 workpeople involved in disputes in this group 55·3 per cent. were women and 22·7 per cent. were men (the remainder being young persons), figures which, when compared with the percentages of women (42) and men (32) employed, would seem to indicate that a larger proportion of the women than of the men in the textile trades were engaged in disputes in 1897. To ascertain how far these women were directly on strike or locked out, and how far they were merely thrown out of work in consequence of disputes in the results of which they were not interested, the figures have been further analysed. The results show that 68·4 per cent. of the women affected by disputes were directly on strike or locked-out, the remaining 31·6 per cent. being indirectly affected.

On the whole the balance of advantage in the settlement of the trade disputes of 1897 was on the side of the employers, 44·5 per cent. of the workpeople affected being engaged in disputes settled wholly in favour of the employers, and only 21·6 per cent. in disputes settled wholly in favour of the workpeople. This general result, which is unusual in a year of active demand for labour, such as 1897, was mainly determined by the settlement of the engineering dispute. If, however, wages disputes alone are considered (thus eliminating the great engineering dispute), the results show a closer correspondence with the statistics of wages and employment. Thus, of the 106,293 workpeople involved in wages disputes, 27·2 per cent. were affected by disputes settled wholly in their favour, 30·6 by disputes settled wholly in favour of the employers, and 40·1 by compromised disputes.

The most prevalent method for settling trade disputes in 1897 was, as usual, direct arrangement or negotiation between the parties concerned or their representatives, disputes affecting 187,048 workpeople, or over 81 per cent. of the total number involved in all disputes, being settled in this way. Disputes involving 19,300 workpeople, were settled by arbitration, conciliation, or mediation; while disputes involving 21,187 workpeople were settled by the workpeople resuming work on their employers' terms without negotiation, or by their replacement, or by closing of the works.

A special section is included in the report dealing with the settlement of differences between employers and workpeople by Boards of Conciliation and Arbitration, and by the mediation of third parties or by reference to arbitration. During 1897, 40 disputes involving stoppages of work, affecting over 19,000 workpeople, were brought to a close by these agencies.

\* Excluding domestic servants.

Included in this section is an account of the work of Boards of Conciliation and Arbitration in settling disputes whether or not they involved a cessation of work. The total number of cases considered by 53 permanent boards in 1897 was 1,465. Of these cases, 603 are reported as withdrawn or settled independently of the boards, and 53 as still under consideration at the end of the year. The remaining 809 cases were settled, 623 by the boards or committees, and 186 by arbitrators or umpires.

The number of boards known to have settled cases in 1897 was 51. Of this number 49 were Trade Boards and two District Boards. Eight new Conciliation Boards were formed in the course of the year.

### FRIENDLY SOCIETIES IN ITALY.

A REPORT on the Friendly Societies of Italy, issued by the Statistical Branch of the Ministry of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce in Rome,\* gives the total number of Friendly Societies existing in Italy on January 1st, 1895, as 6,725. Of these, 4,021 admitted members irrespective of their trade or occupation. The remainder included 241 Societies consisting exclusively of persons engaged in agriculture, 701 Societies admitting none but persons of the last-named class together with artisans, labourers, &c., and 1,624 admitting none but persons belonging to some one particular trade or to allied trades.

The following statement shows the growth of Friendly Societies in Italy since 1873:—

Years.	Number of Societies existing.	Societies whose effective membership was known.	
		Number.	Membership (effective).
1873	1,447	1,146	218,822
1878	2,091	1,981	331,548
1885	4,900	4,772	781,491
1895	6,725	6,587	994,183

The number of officially recognised Friendly Societies in 1895 was 1,200, *i.e.*, less than one-fifth of all Societies. Recognised Societies enjoy certain advantages, not conceded to unrecognised Societies, including exemption from certain taxes and the right to accept donations and legacies. They are bound to submit their rules and send in their annual balance-sheets to the Ministry of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce, and to supply that Department with such statistical information as it may require. They are prohibited from using their capital assets for any purposes other than those specified in their rules, or for defraying the cost of administration, nor are they allowed to grant old-age pensions properly so-called. They are, however, allowed to undertake the granting of relief in case of invalidity or old age, so far as the means at their disposal may permit.

Information is available with respect to 4,983 Societies, whose rules provide for benefits other than ordinary sick benefit (which is common to all Friendly Societies). Of these 4,983 Societies, 2,256 provided, or undertook to provide, permanent allowances to persons having reached a certain age or afflicted with chronic illness, or to the families of deceased members; 2,478 granted relief in exceptional cases to old or invalid members, or to the widows and orphans of members; 451 granted assistance in cases of confinement; 417 made grants to members or their children for educational purposes; 2,132 paid funeral benefits; 489 gave special accident benefit to members; 234 gave unemployed benefit; 545 assisted unemployed members in obtaining work; 429 gave assistance to Friendly Society members travelling in search of work; 1,151 granted loans to members; 409 stated that they had established co-operative distributive stores; 174, that they had organised co-operative production; and 467, that they had established evening or Sunday schools for members and their families.

\* *Elenco delle Società di Mutuo Soccorso.* Ministero di Agricoltura, Industria e Commercio. Direzione Generale della Statistica, 1898. Sold by Treves Bros., Rome, Bologna, Milan, and Naples. Price 1/50 lire (about 1s. 2d.).

### CO-OPERATIVE CONTRACTS IN ITALY.

THE Italian law facilitating the carrying out, by co-operative societies, of contracts for Public Authorities has been referred to in previous numbers of the GAZETTE (see March, 1895, p. 82; March, 1896, p. 85; December, 1896, p. 374; and February, 1897, p. 36), and its working was described in the Report on Contracts given out by Public Authorities to Associations of Workmen published by the Department [C.—8233 of 1896]. The following particulars in regard to the public contracts undertaken by co-operative societies are given in *Credito e Cooperazione*:—

Year.	Contracts given to Co-operative Societies by Public Authorities.	
	Number.	Amount.
1889	26	16,502
1890	157	146,405
1891	120	65,745
1892	106	71,856
1893	177	103,161
1894	215	80,895
1895	159	85,367
1896	200	79,929
1897	125	72,951
Total	1,285	722,518

Among the 1,285 contracts referred to in the table, 639 contracts to the amount of £543,069 were for works in connection with river and other embankment work; 66 to the value of £91,506 for bridge and road work; 40 to the amount of £21,136 for work in connection with the reclamation of the Pontine Marshes; 451 to the value of £30,916 for masonry and bricklaying; 24 to the amount of £13,212 for work in iron; and 12 to the amount of £10,335 for military equipment and transport.

The diminution in the figures for the last two years is stated to be chiefly due to the decrease in public works, but partly to the fact that, while the figures relate only to contracts under £4,000 in value (the limit fixed by the law creating the special privileges in favour of co-operative societies), some of the more substantial societies have, during the period in question, competed for contracts over this amount in competition with ordinary contractors.

The total number of societies which have obtained contracts under the law is 213. From the passing of the law in 1889 to the end of 1897, 515 societies of the class to which the law applies ("co-operative societies of production and labour") were registered by the prefects, as qualified to avail themselves of the privileges of the law; but the registration of 214 societies has been cancelled, in some cases because the societies went into liquidation, in others because they did not comply with their rules, or failed to carry out the objects for which they were formed.

With respect to the manner in which the societies have executed the work entrusted to them, it is stated that during the period under review six contracts (of the total value of £5,680) were rescinded, and fines to the aggregate amount of about £2,400 were imposed upon 40 societies, but that, speaking generally, the societies have carried out their contracts in a satisfactory manner.

The regulations for giving effect to the law in regard to the granting of public contracts to co-operative societies have, by a Decree of June 9th, 1898, been revised in certain respects. In particular, it may be noted that, while the previous regulations made it permissible for the contracting authorities to give out separate contracts for the labour and for the materials required, this procedure is now made compulsory, except in cases in which it would be practically inconvenient; and it is further provided that, so far as practicable, separate contracts shall be given out for work belonging to distinct trades.

**Labour Statistics.—Annual Reports.**—The Department has received copies of the annual reports of the Bureaux of Labour Statistics of the State of New York and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.



CO-OPERATION IN 1897.

THE following table, showing the progress in 1897 of the Workmen's Distributive and Productive Co-operative Societies in the United Kingdom, is based upon returns and reports supplied direct to the Department by the societies concerned, and upon statistics published in the annual reports of the Co-operative Union and the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society.

The total sales and transfers in 1897 of the 1,710 societies dealt with in the table amounted to £65,981,769, the total membership to 1,512,399, and the number of persons directly employed by them at the end of the year to 73,054.

The total sales of the distributive departments of the 1,483 retail societies amounted to £40,175,774, an increase of £3,199,539 over the amount returned by 1,470 societies making returns for 1896.

Returns received from 580 of the retail distributive societies show that at the end of 1897 they had in their direct employment 10,830 persons engaged in the production of various articles sold in their distributive departments; the value of such productions amounting during the year to £3,195,563, compared with £2,650,183, the value of the productions of 495 societies making returns for 1896. This together with the productions of the two wholesale societies and the productive societies makes a total of £9,349,319 for the value of their own productions, sold by co-operative societies of all classes in 1897, an increase over 1896 of 21.9 per cent.

The total number of persons employed in production by societies of all classes was 29,564, of whom 17,149 were men, 7,537 women, and 4,878 young persons under 18 years of age. Of these 69.8 per cent. were employed in England and Wales, 28.8 per cent. in Scotland and 1.4 per cent. in Ireland.

In the productive societies the increase in membership is 6.5 per cent.; in share, loan, and reserve capital, 9.0 per cent.; in sales, 12.1 per cent.; and in number of employees, 5.6 per cent.

Of the total capital of all classes of societies £8,040,158 had been re-invested otherwise than in their own trade, £2,639,711 of this being in house and cottage property, £3,513,615 in other co-operative societies, and the balance in various other securities.

TABLE showing certain particulars relating to the Workmen's Co-operative Societies in the United Kingdom—distinguishing Distributive and Productive Societies—for the year ended December 31st, 1897, together with the totals for 1896.

	Number of Societies to which the following particulars relate.	Number of Members.		Capital.		Amount of Sales during year.	Profit including interest on Shares, but not on Loan Capital.	Number of Persons directly employed by the Societies.†
		Individuals.	Other Societies.*	Share and Loan.	Reserve and Insurance.			
<b>Distribution:—</b>				£	£	£	£	
Retail Societies ... ..	1,483	1,468,682	—	18,361,902	724,165	40,175,774	6,140,857	39,838
English Wholesale Society ... ..	1	—	1,046	1,277,657	489,253	11,920,143	140,909	2,733
Scottish " Societies ... ..	1	266	288	766,391	124,037	4,405,854	120,937	997
Irish " Societies ... ..	2	7	49	2,793	—	130,679	625	12
Total Distributive Societies in 1897 ... ..	1,487	1,468,955	1,333	20,408,743	1,337,455	56,633,450	6,402,428	43,490
" " " " 1896 ... ..	1,473	1,380,259	1,367	19,218,728	1,222,784	52,024,598	6,043,245	37,703
<b>Production by Productive Societies:—</b>				£	£	£	£	
Various Manufacturing Societies ... ..	120	17,763	2,900	727,627	52,944	1,197,862	38,521	7,453
Bread-making and Food Preparation Societies ... ..	23	7,775	230	249,779	13,003	428,078	60,137	1,196
Corn Milling Societies ... ..	9	6,373	412	443,997	14,031	1,264,402	62,590	405
Irish Dairying " ... ..	71	6,392	13	48,235	7,411	358,247	2,350	327
Total Productive Societies in 1897 ... ..	223	38,806	3,555	1,469,638	87,389	3,248,589	163,614	9,381
" " " " 1896 ... ..	201	36,181	3,329	1,350,757	77,176	2,998,855	152,349	8,887
<b>Production by Distributive Societies:—</b>				£	£	£	£	
Retail Societies (580) ... ..	580	580	580	580	580	3,195,563	580	10,830
English Wholesale Society ... ..	1	1	1	709,778	1,049,361	1,049,361	30,186	5,653
Scottish " Societies ... ..	1	1	1	396,666	—	1,255,806	46,633	3,700
Total Production by Distributive Societies, 1897 ... ..	582	582	582	1,106,444	1,106,444	6,100,730	76,819	20,183
Total Production by Distributive Societies, 1896 ... ..	582	582	582	1,017,879	1,017,879	4,769,411	58,514	17,986
<b>Grand Totals for 1897 ... ..</b>	<b>1,710</b>	<b>1,507,461</b>	<b>4,938*</b>	<b>22,984,825</b>	<b>1,424,844</b>	<b>65,981,769</b>	<b>6,642,861</b>	<b>73,054</b>
" " " " 1896 ... ..	1,674	1,416,440	4,696*	21,587,364	1,299,960	59,692,854	6,254,108	64,576

\* The same society may hold shares in several societies, and may therefore be counted several times in this column.  
 † In some cases the number of employees was not stated. In these cases an estimate has been made. § Included under head of "Distribution."  
 ‡ In the case of production by distributive societies, the goods are not usually sold direct from the manufacturing departments, but are transferred to the distributive departments.

OLD-AGE AND INVALIDITY INSURANCE IN HOLLAND.

REPORT OF DUTCH ROYAL COMMISSION.\*

A Royal Commission appointed in Holland by a decree dated July 31st, 1895, has just reported on the question, whether it is desirable that legislation should be enacted conferring a claim to pecuniary help upon workpeople who are permanently unfitted, owing to old age or invalidity, to provide for their own support. The Commission has reported in favour of a system under which all wage-earners (including clerks, etc., and domestic servants) of 16 years of age and upwards earning less than 1,000 guilders (£83 6s. 8d.) per annum, should be under legal compulsion to insure against invalidity and old age.

Without drawing up any scheme in the form of a legislative proposal, the Commission agreed upon the main features of the insurance, and these may be outlined as follows:—

The cost of the insurance should be borne equally by employers and employed, but during the first years of the operation of the

\* Verslag van de Werkzaamheden der Staatscommissie ingesteld bij Koninklijk Besluit van 31 Juli, 1895, No. 21. The Hague, Van Cleef Bros., 1895.

law, the State should provide a certain amount of assistance. The old-age pension should become payable at the age of 65, after the payment of at least 1,000 weekly contributions in at least 20 different years. A pension for invalidity (which is defined) should be obtainable after at least 150 weekly contributions had been made in not less than three different years, the waiting time for old age, but not for invalidity pensions to be reduced for the earlier years of the operation of the law. The rates of contribution and pension should vary according to the wage-class to which the insured person belonged, five wage-classes being proposed, viz., persons receiving (1) 250 guilders (£20 16s. 8d.) per annum or less, (2) over 250 guilders up to 400 guilders (£20 16s. 8d.—£33 6s. 8d.), (3) over 400 guilders up to 600 guilders (£33 6s. 8d.—£50), (4) over 600 guilders up to 800 guilders (£50—£66 13s. 4d.), and (5) over 800 guilders up to 1,000 guilders (£66 13s. 4d.—£83 6s. 8d.). It is proposed that there be a central insurance institution for administering the law.

One of the appendices to the volume consists of a report on the means at present open to workpeople in Holland for providing against invalidity and old age.

RECENT CONCILIATION & ARBITRATION CASES AND COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS.

(a) CASES UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT.

Strike of Coal Miners at Pinxton.

ON October 4th the miners employed at the Pinxton Collieries, near Alfreton, Derbyshire, struck work, about 1,200 persons being directly and indirectly affected. The principal matters in dispute were the request of the men for an advance in the cutting price at one of the pits, for the introduction of a scale for boys' wages depending on the age of the boy, for a fixed daily wage to be guaranteed failing agreement as to prices for cutting faulty coal, for alterations in new bye-laws with regard to props and packs, and some other matters.

On October 18th the general manager for the Colliery Company applied for action to be taken under the Conciliation Act. Representatives of the Board of Trade had interviews with the parties, and after some negotiations they agreed to meet in conference under a chairman nominated by the Board of Trade. Accordingly the Board nominated Sir W. Markby, K.C.I.E., and a meeting was held at Nottingham, on November 4th. At this meeting an agreement was arrived at on the principal points in dispute, certain points being left over for discussion between the miners' agent and the general manager. These points were subsequently satisfactorily disposed of, and it was agreed that work should be resumed on November 12th.

The following is the text of the agreement arrived at: "Memorandum of agreement made this fourth day of November, 1898, between Mr. Walter Salmond, on behalf of Messrs. Coke and Co., of the Pinxton Collieries, in the Counties of Derby and Nottingham (hereinafter called the company), on the one part, and Mr. John G. Hancock, residing at 129, Nottingham-road, New Basford, in the County of Nottingham, on behalf of the Nottinghamshire Miners' Association (hereinafter called the association), of the other part.

"1. It is hereby agreed: That George Marshall shall return to No. 2 Pit as dayman with promise of first vacancy as stallman.

"2. That age shall not be an obstacle to employment at these collieries as long as the man is not infirm or incompetent. The company is quite prepared to reconsider the fourteen cases, and if the association can satisfy Mr. Walter Salmond a man is still fit to work that he should be reinstated.

"3. That props be not more than five feet apart, bank packs to be six feet long, gate side packs nine feet long on face, wastes five yards long; this to be the normal condition, but exceptional circumstances to be provided for as they arise.

"4. That in cases of faults, bunkeys, bad coal, bad roof, water, thick clod, or other difficulties of a similar character, and the stallman if so employed by the company fails to earn a day's wage according to the price list, the company to make his wages up to 6s. 6d. per day.

"5. That boys' wages be as under:—

Age.	Door-boys.	Driver-boys.
13 .....	1s. 2d. ....	1s. 4d. ....
14 .....	1s. 6d. ....	1s. 8d. ....
15 .....	1s. 10d. ....	2s. 0d. ....
16 .....	2s. 2d. ....	2s. 4d. ....
17 .....	2s. 6d. ....	2s. 8d. ....
18 .....	2s. 10d. ....	3s. 0d. ....
19 .....	3s. 2d. ....	3s. 4d. ....

The above rates to be paid and increased 1d. per quarter all round on January 1st, April 1st, July 1st, and October 1st. No reduction to be made in present wages.

"6. That the Langton soft-coal-getting price be 2s. 7 3/4d.; slack, bind, and bats not to exceed 14lbs. per cwt.; slack in excess of this to be paid for at the rate of sixpence per ton.

"7. That the allowance for slack, bind, and bats at the No. 2 pit be raised from 11lbs. per cwt. to 14lbs.

"8. That awn coal-gates at all the pits shall be made by the company.

"9. That no dirt shall be sent in the stalls off the main roads for stallmen to empty.

"10. That 'kalers' shall be paid 3s. 10d. per day for Nos. 1 and 6 pits; pit topmen 4s. per day; others to be paid in proportion on condition that men forego any demand for the lamps to be brought out of any or either of the pits or any increase of wages demanded for their retention."

(b) OTHER CASES.

Board of Conciliation for the Manufactured Steel Trade of the West of Scotland.

AT a meeting of this Board on October 28th an advance of 5 per cent. in the wages of steel millmen was agreed

upon. The advance was to take effect on December 3rd, but this date has subsequently been altered by agreement to November 13th. About 800 persons are affected.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

THE following are among the more interesting legal cases reported in October, specially affecting labour. The accounts are based principally upon reports appearing in newspapers:—

(1) WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT.

**Claims by Widows.—Legal Personal Representative.—Application of Compensation.**—The respective widows of two workmen fatally injured while employed by a railway company applied to the County Court for orders directing how certain sums paid by the company as compensation should be applied. In neither case had letters of administration been taken out. In one case the company had paid £10 to the widow to relieve her immediate necessities and paid £166 1s. 11d. into Court. The deputy-judge directed that of the latter sum £25 should be paid out to the widow at once and £25 set aside for each of her two young children to receive on attaining their majority, or before, if on application to the Court it was found necessary, and that the balance of £91 1s. 11d. should be paid to the widow by instalments of £3 a month. In the other case the company had advanced £10 to the widow and paid £290 into court. There were four children dependent upon the widow, and, with her concurrence, it was suggested that a further sum of £20 should be paid to her at once, that £70 should be set aside for the four children, and that the remaining £200 should be paid to the widow at the rate of £40 per annum for five years, the money to be paid by monthly instalments of £3 6s. 8d. The deputy-judge directed accordingly. In another case, in which a workman had been killed while in the employment of a firm of ironmasters, leaving a widow and a daughter, aged 19, the firm was insured with an accident insurance company, which paid £300 into Court (£260 for the widow and £40 for the daughter). The widow had not taken out letters of administration. The firm had paid the funeral expenses, and the amount of these expenses was to be deducted. The judge directed that the widow should have her share (£253 8s.) at once, and that the daughter should receive £20 at once and the balance (£20) at periods of six months' interval. In another case a sum of £273 paid into court by an insurance company in respect of a workman in the employ of some building contractors, who had died in consequence of an accident, leaving a widow and three children, was apportioned by the judge by awarding £150 to the widow and the balance equally among the three children, to be invested in the Post Office Savings Bank, and the interest to be paid to the mother so long as she should maintain the children.—*Crews County Court, October 3rd; Belper County Court, October 10th; Newport County Court, October 13th.*

**Who are Dependants.**—In an action in which the parents of a workman, who had met with a fatal accident, claimed compensation from his employers, it was shown that the deceased sent usually 2s. 6d. to 5s. every week, but sometimes £1, to his mother, but that his father had earned an average weekly wage of £1 7s. 5d. during the past three years, and even more during a short time prior to the accident, and that out of that he had to keep his wife and himself, his children being grown up and supporting themselves. The sheriff-substitute held that the pursuers were not dependent upon their son, and dismissed the action.—*Edinburgh Sheriff Court, September 28th.*

**"Accident arising out of and in the course of the employment."**—In an action by the widow of a labourer's hammerman, late in the employment of a firm of engineers, it appeared that the deceased, in order to look into a tank, had placed himself in "a position of extreme and conspicuous danger"—a position such that, "had he been ordered to place himself in it, he would have been entitled, and indeed bound, to have refused to do so," with the result that his jacket caught in a revolving shaft and he was fatally injured. The acting sheriff-substitute was of opinion that the words of the statute, "arising out of and in the course of the employment" were not simply equivalent, as was argued, to "while a workman was in the employment," but referred to something incidental to the employment, and which happened while the workman was pursuing it, and held that the accident to the deceased was not covered by the words in question. The claim of his widow was accordingly dismissed. In another case a labourer claimed compensation from a firm of shipwrights for injuries received in falling down a hatchway of a ship on which he was working. It was shown that the accident occurred while the plaintiff was looking for a fellow workman (whose absence caused a stoppage of work) in a part of the ship where the plaintiff was not himself at work. The action failed, the judge holding that the search for his fellow-workman formed no part of the employment of the plaintiff. In another case the widow of a man employed in a warehouse, whose death was caused by a fall while fetching two jugs of tea, one for one of the salesmen and the other for himself, was held not to be entitled to compensation, on the ground that the accident had not arisen out of and in the course of the employment of the deceased.—*Edinburgh Sheriff Court, September 30th; Liverpool County Court, October 14th; Manchester County Court, October 28th.*

**Employment in or about a Factory.**—An action was brought on behalf of herself and her children by the widow of a



carter who, while loading timber on to his cart from the premises of his employers (a firm of builders and contractors), the cart being in the road outside, fell from his cart, receiving injuries which proved fatal. It was contended, on behalf of the employers, that there was no sufficient evidence that the accident arose "out of" the course of the man's employment, and that the spot where the accident happened was not "in or about a factory." The judge gave judgment on both points in favour of the plaintiff. In another case an action was brought against a firm of wharfingers by a labourer who had met with an accident while working at a barge alongside a steamer moored to a quay. The judge decided against the plaintiff on the ground that he was not employed "in or about a factory" at the time of the accident.—*Liverpool County Court, October 26th; Southwark County Court, October 27th.*

**Average Weekly Earnings.**—A man, who had been a blacksmith earning from 32s. to 38s. a week, fell out of employment, and got work at certain gasworks from a firm engaged in fixing a gas-holder there. After he had been at work for an hour or two, he was injured by an accident. He brought an action against the firm, claiming compensation on the basis of his having been employed as a blacksmith earning 33s. 6d. per week; but the defendants contended that the man had been engaged as a labourer to assist a mechanic who was fitting guide-rails to the gasholder, that no rate of wages was mentioned, but that the standard rate for labourers was 24s. a week, and that the compensation payable was to be fixed on the basis of this rate. The judge said two questions were raised. Could they, in deciding the amount of wages which the applicant was entitled to receive, look back to some former employment, and could they infer the rate of wages from the terms of employment, even though practically no wages had been earned? On the first point he held that an applicant was not entitled to look back, for, if he were, a workman would always select a previous employment when he was earning higher wages. As to the second point, he did not think the Act intended a man to be excluded from benefit when he was injured while working under such circumstances as were disclosed in that case. He held that the applicant was employed as a labourer, and the wages for that occupation being 24s. a week, the compensation would be 12s. per week.—*Birmingham County Court, October 11th.*

**Appeals from County Courts.**—Procedure.—In the Court of Appeal it was announced by Lord Justice A. L. Smith that "until further order every appeal under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897, shall be by notice of motion, and shall be entered at the Crown Office department of the central office by lodging a copy of the notice. The notice of motion shall state the grounds of the appeal, and shall be an eight days' notice, and shall be served on every party directly affected by the appeal entered. The same stamp duty, for the present, which is payable in respect of other appeals to the Court of Appeal, must be paid in respect of appeals under the said Act." The matter would, as soon as possible, be brought before the Rule Committee with a view to the framing of a rule to the above effect.—*Court of Appeal, October 27th.*

#### (2) EMPLOYERS AND WORKMEN ACT

**Termination of Contract.**—Wages due forthwith.—A number of workmen sued a colliery company for wages due, their contracts having been terminated by notice, but payment being refused by the defendants until the pay day, ten days after the men ceased working. The plaintiffs contended that they were entitled to be paid at once on the termination of their contracts, and the sheriff gave judgment in their favour with expenses.—*Edinburgh Small Debt Court, October 5th.*

**Refusal to work in meal time justifiable.**—A workwoman, who had refused to do some work for her employers during the dinner hour, sued them for a week's wages in lieu of notice. The judge held that she was right in refusing to work at the time, and gave judgment in her favour with costs.—*Shoreditch County Court, October 11th.*

**Breach of Contract.**—Continuance of employment not waiver.—A colliery company sued a workman for breach of contract in absenting himself from their service. Subsequently to the alleged breaches the plaintiffs had continued to employ the defendant, paying him his weekly wages, and the justices gave judgment against the plaintiffs, on the ground that their keeping him in their employ and paying his wages constituted a waiver and condonation of such breaches. On appeal the decision of the justices was reversed.—*Queen's Bench Division, October 26th.*

**Contract not to leave employment.**—Damages for breach.—A firm of glassmakers summoned a workman for having wrongfully quitted their service. The defendant had signed an agreement under seal, whereby he contracted to work for the plaintiffs at a specified kind of work for 4s. 6d. per day, or such altered sum as mutually agreed, and not to leave their employ or to work for anyone else without their consent in writing, also not to give any information relative to the business or manner of work to anyone, the plaintiffs agreeing to find the defendant an equal share of the work as the other men employed at the same class of work, but had given the plaintiffs a fortnight's notice and gone to work for another firm at the same kind of work. For the defendant it was contended that the contract of service was void, as being in restraint of trade. The stipendiary said that restrictive covenants intended to protect a process or a particular trade were not illegal, if they were reasonable. He held that the contract that the workman should not leave the employ of the plaintiffs without consent was reasonable, though he thought that the other part of the contract, forbidding the defendant to work for anybody else without the plaintiffs' consent would be void if they tried to enforce it. But the first part of the contract being good in law, the defendant was bound by it. There must, therefore, be a verdict in favour of the plaintiffs for the

damages claimed (£10) and costs.—*Brierly Hill Police Court, October 27th.*

#### (3) FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS.

**Flax-scutching Mills.**—Prevention of Dust.—The proprietor of a flax scutching mill was summoned for non-compliance with an order made by the factory inspector, directing a fan for preventing the inhalation by the workers of dust generated in the mill to be erected. The magistrates decided to impose a penalty, and on the advocate of the defendant's requesting that the penalty might be sufficient to enable an appeal to be made, fined the defendant £1 1s. and costs.—*Garvagh Petty Sessions, October 27th.*

#### (4) TRUCK ACT, 1896.

**Overcharges for Damaged Work.**—An employer was fined altogether £4 and 12s. costs for having received from two of his employees, in respect of damaged work, payments the amount of which was not fair and reasonable, having regard to all the circumstances of the case.—*Clerkenwell Police-court, October 21st.*

### LABOUR IN THE COLONIES.\*

(Monthly report, compiled by the Emigrants' Information Office, 31 Broadway, Westminster, S.W., from official and other reports, newspapers, etc., mostly dated September and October last.)†

**Canada.**—There is no demand for more labour in Canada at this season of the year. A report lately issued as to the conditions under which Government clothing contracts are carried out states that most of the contracts are executed by women and girls in Montreal, Hamilton, and Toronto. A few first-rate hands at Hamilton receive 24s. 9d. per week, but the average wage for good workers is 12s. 4½d. at Montreal, 12s. 4½d. to 14s. 5d. at Toronto, and 16s. 6d. at Hamilton, and a large number of hands receive only 8s. 3d. a week. The hours worked are 60 a week, and sometimes more; at Montreal there is no Saturday half-holiday.

**New South Wales.**—An Act has recently been passed which prohibits the landing of any immigrant, who, when asked to do so by the appointed officer, shall fail to write out in his own handwriting in some European language, and sign a prescribed application form of admission. The recent annual report of the New South Wales Labour Bureau states that there has been a decided improvement in the number of unemployed applying for work; the report also refers to the difficulty of getting good domestic servants.

**Victoria.**—The special boards appointed under the Factories and Shops Act, (see LABOUR GAZETTE, Oct., 1898, p. 318) have determined that the minimum wage payable to any person engaged in the preparing of shirts, collars, etc., shall be 4d. an hour, and that the lowest wage in the furniture trade shall be 1s. an hour, instead of 7s. 6d. per day of eight hours, which was the rate previously fixed, and that the lowest wage paid to any female with over four years' experience in the furniture trade shall be 20s. per week of 48 hours. A few more plumbers and glaziers—if duly qualified—would find employment on the drainage works which are now being carried out at Melbourne. There is an opening for a few experienced miners at Carisbrook and Bendigo.

**South Australia.**—There is no improvement in the general demand for labour. The regulations for the establishment of the new Government Labour Bureau have been issued. The Bureau is to be situated in Adelaide, and branches may be established elsewhere; a register is to be kept of all persons applying for employment, but no one can be registered unless he has resided for one year in the Colony; a register of employers applying for labour is also to be kept. No labour is to be employed in the public service except through the Bureau.

**Queensland.**—The Report of the Government Labour Bureau for 1897, which has just been issued, does not point to any very satisfactory results, but on the whole the tendency of the labour market was towards improvement. There was more demand at Ipswich, Mackay, Rockhampton, and Toowoomba than at Brisbane, Bundaberg, or Townsville. Increased settlement and the improved position of settlers have had this year a stimulating effect upon the manufacturing industries of the colony, and the outlook is good. Gold miners are doing well, and considerable attention is again being directed to the long-neglected copper mining industry.

\* And the South African Republic (Transvaal).

† Handbooks, with maps on the different Colonies, may be obtained from the Emigrants' Information Office, at a penny each, post free.

**Western Australia.**—Free passages for female domestic servants to Western Australia are for the present discontinued. Some 250 men are now being employed on the large works, which are being undertaken to supply Coolgardie with water. There is no difficulty in procuring hands, as a number of men have been discharged from other public works, which have been lately finished.

**Tasmania.**—The Mining Commissioner on the West Coast states that there is no lack of remunerative employment for those able and willing to work.

**New Zealand.**—The Commission appointed to inquire into the state of the police force recommends that both the numbers and the pay of the police be increased. In the district of Auckland the building and sawmill trades have been very busy. In other parts of the Colony also, except at Wellington, Christchurch, Dunedin, and Invercargill, men in the building trades have been fully employed; and the boot and engineering trades have been busy at Napier, Masterton, and Invercargill. Ordinary labourers will, as a rule, find plenty of work in country districts, but they must avoid large towns like Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, Timaru, and Dunedin, where many hands have been unable to find employment.

**Natal.**—The building trade at Durban has been busier of late than it has been for a considerable time; many buildings are being erected or improved.

**Transvaal.**—There is no improvement in the demand for labour at Johannesburg.

### LABOUR ABROAD.

#### FRANCE.

**Employment in October.\***—The mining and metal (smelting and manufacture) trades continued well employed in October, but the seasonal slackness in the building trades and their dependent industries (including quarrying, certain classes of smith's work, lime-burning, and pottery) has increased. A resumption of activity tends to manifest itself in the food preparation, cardboard manufacture, bookbinding and printing industries, and in skin and leather dressing, boot and shoe making, glove-making, silk manufacture (especially ribbon-making), and coopering. The state of employment in the cotton, woollen, and flax industries remains unchanged; the spinning mills are turning out short supplies, few fresh orders coming in from the weaving sheds and a delay in the delivery of yarn already ordered being asked for. Speaking generally, it may be said that employment is considered less plentiful than it was at the same time last year.

On October 15th, 500 trade unions, with 114,000 members, reported a little over 10 per cent. unemployed. Eight per cent. of the number, containing 4 per cent. of the membership, of the reporting unions, regarded employment as having been more plentiful this October than last; 33 per cent. of the unions, containing 61 per cent. of the membership, regarded it as having been less plentiful; while 59 per cent. of the unions, containing 35 per cent. of the membership, reported the state of employment as the same this year as last.

The reduction in the length of the working day, noticed last month, has continued; in some trades the hours have been shortened by two per day.

The price of bread is unchanged, but a tendency to lower prices is visible. The prices of other articles, especially vegetables, are rising, in consequence of the want of rain which has been felt during the past months.

**Coal Mining in September.†**—The average number of days per week on which coal was hewn and wound in September was the same as in August, viz.:—5'92, compared with 5'93 in September, 1897. In September full time (6 days and over) was worked by 80 per cent.,

and from 5 to 6 days by 20 per cent. of the miners, while in the previous month the percentages were 77 and 22 respectively. The pits making these returns employ over 100,000 workpeople, or three-fourths of the coal miners of France.

**The Strike of Navvies in Paris.**—The strike of Paris navvies briefly noted in last month's GAZETTE (page 296) was virtually at an end on October 15th. The following account is based mainly on information contained in the *Bulletin de l'Office du Travail* for October. The dispute began on Sept 13th, when 1,200 men, employed on the Western Railway Company's new line from Courcelles to the Champ-de-Mars, struck for increased wages. The movement rapidly extended to other quarters of Paris and suburbs, so that on September 15th the strikers numbered some 15,000. They demanded payment at the rate laid down in the Paris Wage-list of 1882, viz., 60 centimes (5½d.) per hour, instead of 50 centimes (4½d.), the rate they were receiving. They also demanded the abolition of the system under which they were required, when being engaged, to sign an agreement signifying their acceptance of the rate of wages offered them. The reason why employers required such an agreement was, that the Council of *Prud'hommes*, when deciding a dispute between an employer and a workman as to the wages due to the latter, always obliged the employer to pay at the rate fixed by the Paris Wage-list of 1882, unless the workman had agreed to accept some other rate.

On September 17th, and again on September 23rd, an invitation to the parties to discuss the matter in a conciliation board was issued by a justice of the peace. The workmen on each occasion accepted the proposal; but the employers gave no reply. On October 2nd the workmen were officially informed that the employers had agreed to conciliation, but the men now refused the proposal. From October 3rd the strike extended to various other classes of workmen, chiefly connected with the building trades, their main object being to show sympathy with the navvies.

On October 8th the Paris Municipal Council passed a resolution inviting the Prefect of the Seine Department to call on the City contractors to resume work within 24 hours, and failing their doing so, threatened to take over, at the contractor's risk, all the works not resumed. As a result of this decision, all except two of these contractors, agreed to pay the wage demanded by the men, and a gradual resumption of work began to take place from October 10th.

Since October 15th the workmen employed in the other building trades are reported to have practically come in, the last to do so being the joiners and plumbers.

#### GERMANY.

**Labour Disputes in October.**—The number of labour disputes reported by *Der Arbeitsmarkt* to have begun in Germany in October is 31. The trades affected were:—Building, 9 disputes; wood-working and allied trades, 5 disputes; the metal and engineering group, 4 disputes; the clothing trades, 3; mining, food, etc., preparation and textile trades, 2 each; and trades not included in any of the foregoing groups, 4 disputes. None of the disputes, for which information concerning the numbers affected was available, were of serious extent.

**Operations of Public Labour Registries in October.**—The total number of situations offered by employers in October at 48 of the municipal and other public labour registries which have sent returns to *Der Arbeitsmarkt* was 31,034, as compared with 38,035 in the previous month, and 27,812 in October, 1897. The number of situations sought during the month was 36,353, compared with 36,413 in the previous month, and 32,361 in October, 1897. The number of situations found was 23,106, compared with 24,149 in September, and 20,399 in October, 1897.

**Decrease of overtime in the Textile Trades of the Düsseldorf District.**—The factory inspector of the Düsseldorf district, in his report for 1897,\* calls attention to the decrease in the amount of overtime, permission to work which was granted in the case of women operatives in the district. The number of women who were granted permits of this nature in 1897 was 15,577 (compared with 22,536 in 1896), the number of hours of overtime involved being

\* Information supplied through the courtesy of the French Labour Department. † Bulletin de l'Office du Travail, October, 1898.



183,677 (compared with 311,174 in 1896). Almost the whole (93·6 per cent.) of this overtime had reference to textile operatives.

The following statement is given, showing, for each of the great textile centres of the district, the number of hours of overtime, permits to work which were granted in respect to women in the textile trades in each of the years 1895-7:—

Textile Centres.	Number of hours for which overtime permits were granted for women textile operatives in		
	1895.	1896.	1897.
Crefeld ... ..	3,234	1,526	4,889
Barmen ... ..	56,141	35,324	42,854
Elberfeld ... ..	17,122	16,210	3,012
Essen ... ..	94,955	23,550	7,815
Düsseldorf ... ..	20,338	3,690	5,310
München—Gladbach, Rheidi, Odenkirchen, and Grevenbroich ... ..	145,118	140,725	56,891
Lenep ... ..	43,936	29,930	27,404

The decrease of overtime is stated to be due to the fact that the trades are gradually adapting themselves to the restrictions imposed by the Factory Acts, and also to the special care which, in pursuance of a recent order, is now taken by the authorities in regard to the examination of all applications for permits to work overtime.

*Hours of Labour of Adult Workmen in Textile Factories in the Aix-la-Chapelle District.*—The inspector for the district of Aix-la-Chapelle gives the following figures in his report for 1897, showing the hours usually worked by adult workmen in the textile factories of the district (intervals for meals, &c., not included):—

Length of the Working Day	No. of Establishments	No. of Adult Workmen
12½ hours ... ..	28	1,722
12 " ... ..	24	1,620
11½ " ... ..	...	2,665
11 " ... ..	78	4,210
10½ " ... ..	42	2,806
10 " ... ..	10	322

*Employment of Women and Children in Brick and Tile-making.—New Rules.*—An order of the Federal Council, dated October 18th, 1898, prohibits the employment of women and children in:—

- Getting or transporting the raw material (including the wetted clay) for making bricks, tiles, etc.;
- Hand-moulding bricks or tiles (except roofing tiles and floating bricks);
- Work at the kilns, other than filling and emptying open-top smoke-kilns;
- The transport on barrows, etc., of moulded, dried, or burnt bricks and tiles, except in cases in which the barrows, etc., can be run on a firmly laid track or a hard, level roadway.

In respect to brick and tile works, where moulding is carried on only from the middle of March till the middle of November, the present rules relax in certain respects the provisions of the Factory Acts as to the hours of work of women and children.

The above rules are to be operative from January 1st, 1899, till January 1st, 1904.

**BELGIUM.†**

*Employment in October.*—All coal mines are being worked to their fullest capacity. The metal trades (smelting and manufacture) continue active on the whole. At Verviers and Ghent there is great depression in the engineering trades, but in other parts of the country the condition is considered as satisfactory, or even exceptionally good. Sugar refining is now everywhere in full swing, but the season promises to be a short one, as the beetroot crop, though rich in sugar, has been everywhere a light one. The brick-making season is now over. The glass trades continue to be busy, and wages are reported to have been increased in the sheet glass branch. The comparatively mild weather has been favourable for the building trades, but has had an adverse effect upon the seasonal revival of the garment-making and shoe-making trades in some places. The match industry of Grammont continues very depressed. Employment is also scarce in the tanning trade. Worsted spinners are very well employed, but the other branches of the textile trades, more especially those carried on in the larger establishments in Ghent, are going through a

\* Jahres-Berichte der Königlich Preussischen Regierungen- und Gewerbetätigen und Bergbehörden für 1897 (pp. 469). Berlin, 1898. Published by W. T. Bruer.  
† Information supplied through the courtesy of the Belgian Labour Department.

crisis, which has had the effect of considerably increasing the number of unemployed spinners and weavers.

*Labour Disputes in October.*—Ten disputes, affecting 46 establishments and directly involving some 2,900 workpeople, were reported to the Belgian Labour Department in October. The industry chiefly affected was coal-mining. In five disputes the object of the workpeople was to obtain an increase of wages; in two they demanded the reinstatement of dismissed employees; the questions at issue in the remaining three disputes being a reduction in wages, the affiliation of the employers to a masters' association, and the fixing of a uniform wages list. Of eight disputes of which the results were reported, two (affecting 355 workpeople) ended favourably, and four (affecting about 1,550 workpeople) unfavourably for the workpeople, whilst in two cases (affecting 125 workpeople) the result was partially in their favour.

**AUSTRIA.**

*Labour Disputes in October.*—The two most serious disputes reported\* to have begun in Austria in October were, a general strike of the bookbinders of Vienna, and the strike at an arms factory at Steyr in Upper Austria. The number involved in the bookbinders' strike is given as 1,011. Its main objects were to secure (1) a working day of 9 hours; (2) the fixing of the following rates of minimum weekly wages: 15s. for men during the first year after completing their training, 18s. for all other workmen, 13s. 4d. for women machinists, and 10s. for all other women after the first 6 months; and (3) the fixing of a minimum piece-wage list. Terms of settlement were arrived at on October 29th. These included:—(1) a working day of 9½ hours; (2) minimum weekly wages of 11s. 8d. for men during the first, and of 15s. during the second year after finishing their training, 16s. 8d. for all other workmen, 13s. 4d. for women performing special kinds of work, and 10s. for all other women after the first year; and (3) the appointment of a joint committee to regulate piece-wages. Work was resumed on Oct. 31st in the establishments owned by the associated employers who were parties to the agreement.

Six hundred and fifty operatives are stated to have participated in the strike at the arms factory in Steyr, their object being to obtain increased piece-wage rates for certain operations in which hand labour had recently been replaced by machinery. The strike lasted from Oct. 17th till the 25th, when work was resumed on the understanding that the demands of the operatives would be considered. Two hundred of the operatives are stated to have been dismissed on Oct. 29th.

**DENMARK.**

*Dispute in the baking trade in Copenhagen.*—In a report to the Foreign Office, dated November 4th, Mr. Edmund Fane, H.M. Minister at Copenhagen, describes a dispute in the baking trade in that city, which culminated on October 22nd in a general lock-out of the journeymen bakers, numbering some 1,100. The dispute was originally confined to the rye-bread bakers, numbering some 150, whose agreement expired on October 1st. The wages under this agreement were 22, 25, and 27 kroner (about 24s. 5d., 27s. 9d., and 30s.) per week, according to ability, and the men now asked for an addition of 6s. 8d. per week for each class and a reduction of the daily working hours (previously 9 and 9½) to 8 and 9. The masters offered to increase wages by 2 kroner (about 2s. 3d.) per day, but refused to shorten the hours, and the rye-bread bakers went on strike at the beginning of October. The chairman of the Town Council intervened, but failed to effect a settlement, the employers insisting that the agreement with the fine-bread bakers should expire simultaneously with that of the rye-bread bakers. The journeymen refused to submit to this condition, and a general lock-out resulted. The journeymen finally submitted to arbitration on November 1st, and agreed to take up work again on November 2nd, whatever the decision of the arbitrators might be.

It is stated that no official support was given by the other trade unions, and that large supplies of bread were received from other places, including the south of Sweden.

\* In employers' and workmen's papers, including *Die Industrie* (the organ of the Federation of Austrian Manufacturers' Associations) *Das Handels-Museum*, *Die Gewerkschaft*, *Die Arbeiter-Zeitung*, and others.

**EMPLOYMENT IN OCTOBER—COAL AND IRON MINING.**

**REPORTS ON SPECIAL INDUSTRIES.**  
**(a) COAL MINING IN OCTOBER.**

[NOTE.—The following tables only profess to state the number of days (allowance being made in all the calculations for short days) on which coal was hewn and wound at the collieries included in the returns received. It is not necessarily implied that all the persons employed at these collieries worked the whole number of days.]

EMPLOYMENT in this industry continued better on the whole than a year ago. As compared with September, employment was better generally in the federated districts of England, but fell off in the Northern Counties and in Scotland.

In the South Wales and Monmouthshire district, employment in October is about the same as a year ago. As stated in the last GAZETTE, employment in this district was not generally resumed until after the commencement of the period there dealt with. It has, therefore, again been excluded from the following comparative tables.

In other districts, 1,165 pits, employing 372,893 workpeople, worked on an average 5·44 days per week in the four weeks ended October 22nd, as compared with 5·37 days in September, and 5·36 days in October, 1897.

The following table shows the average number of days worked in these periods in each division of the United Kingdom:—

District.	No. employed in Oct., 1898, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the pits in four weeks ended		
		22nd Oct. 1898.	23rd Oct. 1897.	24th Sept. 1898.
England and N. Wales ... ..	335,348	5·44	5·36	5·36
Scotland ... ..	35,948	5·44	5·39	5·51
Ireland ... ..	597	5·15	5·14	4·86
<b>United Kingdom ... ..</b>	<b>372,893</b>	<b>5·44</b>	<b>5·36</b>	<b>5·37</b>

The next table, in which the pits are divided according to the class of coal principally produced, shows that employment continued better than a year ago, in all classes. As compared with September, there was a slight falling off in the steam and coking coal pits, but an improvement in all other classes, especially in pits chiefly producing house coal.

Description of Coal.	No. employed in Oct., 1898, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Number of days worked per week.		
		October, 1898.	October, 1897.	September, 1898.
Coking Coal ... ..	25,879	5·77	5·59	5·79
Gas " ... ..	39,688	5·56	5·37	5·50
House " ... ..	95,105	5·31	5·29	5·09
Manufacturing Coal ... ..	27,670	5·60	5·35	5·53
Steam " ... ..	109,203	5·44	5·39	5·51
Mixed " ... ..	75,348	5·36	5·31	5·28
<b>All Classes of Coal ... ..</b>	<b>372,893</b>	<b>5·44</b>	<b>5·36</b>	<b>5·37</b>

In the table below the workpeople are grouped according to the number of days worked at pits at which they were employed. It will be seen that 85·7 per cent. were employed at pits working 5 or more days per week, as compared with 84·2 per cent. in September and 80·5 per cent. in October, 1897.

**CLASSIFICATION OF THE WORKPEOPLE ACCORDING TO THE NUMBER OF DAYS WORKED IN FOUR WEEKS BY THE COLLIERIES.**

Number of days on which Coal was hewn and wound in four weeks.	October, 1898.		Corresponding percentages in—	
	No. of Workpeople employed.	Percentage proportion to total.	October, 1897.	September, 1898.
24 days (full time) ... ..	97,934	26·3	17·9	18·9
20 and under 24 days ... ..	221,559	59·4	63·6	63·3
16 " " 20 " " ... ..	42,345	11·4	16·3	10·7
12 " " 16 " " ... ..	6,868	1·8	1·8	3·3
8 " " 12 " " ... ..	1,111	0·3	0·8	1·0
Under 8 days ... ..	5,076	0·8	0·6	0·8
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>372,893</b>	<b>100·0</b>	<b>100·0</b>	<b>100·0</b>

**Comparison by Districts.**—As compared with September, employment fell off in October by about one-fifth of a day in Cumberland, and to a less degree in

Northumberland, Durham, North Wales and the three Scottish districts. In other districts there was an improvement, the greatest increases in the time worked being in Derbyshire and in Salop, Worcester and Warwick. As compared with October, 1897, employment was not so good in Northumberland, the Lothians, Staffordshire and Fife. In all other districts, employment was better than a year ago, the improvement amounting to one-third of a day in North Wales, and to about a quarter of a day in Nottingham and Leicester, and in Gloucester and Somerset.

The highest averages during the month were worked in Gloucester and Somerset (5·83 days per week), and Cumberland (5·75 days), whilst in five other districts the average amounted to over 5½ days per week, viz.:—North Wales, Yorkshire, the Lothians, Salop, Worcester and Warwick, and Durham. In all other districts, except Nottingham and Leicester (4·86 days) over 5 days per week were worked.

**COMPARISON OF THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS WORKED BY COLLIERIES IN OCTOBER, 1898 AND 1897, AND IN SEPTEMBER, 1898.**

District.	No. employed in Oct., 1898, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average No. of Days worked per Week by the Collieries in four weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (−) in Oct., 1898, as compared with	
		22nd Oct. 1898.	23rd Oct. 1897.	24th Sept. 1898.	A year ago.	A month ago.
<b>ENGLAND &amp; N. WALES</b>						
Northumberland ... ..	34,602	5·31	5·48	5·48	−'17	−'17
Durham ... ..	85,556	5·51	5·46	5·59	+ '05	−'08
Cumberland ... ..	6,137	5·75	5·55	5·96	+ '20	−'21
Yorkshire ... ..	48,985	5·64	5·54	5·59	+ '10	+ '25
Lancashire and Cheshire ... ..	46,552	5·37	5·20	5·31	+ '17	+ '06
Derbyshire ... ..	38,696	5·41	5·33	5·03	+ '08	+ '38
Nottingham and Leicester ... ..	23,503	4·86	4·60	4·75	+ '26	+ '11
Staffordshire ... ..	24,252	5·32	5·40	5·14	−'08	+ '18
Salop, Worcester and Warwick ... ..	8,315	5·59	5·55	5·24	+ '04	+ '35
Gloucester and Somerset ... ..	8,101	5·83	5·59	5·78	+ '24	+ '04
North Wales ... ..	11,649	5·68	5·34	5·72	+ '34	−'05
<b>SCOTLAND.</b>						
West Scotland ... ..	20,818	5·40	5·27	5·48	+ '13	−'08
The Lothians ... ..	3,751	5·64	5·73	5·73	−'09	−'09
Fife ... ..	11,379	5·46	5·51	5·49	−'05	−'03
<b>IRELAND.</b>						
... ..	597	5·15	5·14	4·86	+ '01	+ '29
<b>Grand Total &amp; Averages</b>	<b>372,893</b>	<b>5·44</b>	<b>5·36</b>	<b>5·37</b>	<b>+ '08</b>	<b>+ '07</b>

Returns have also been received from 149 pits in South Wales and Monmouthshire. These pits employed 59,772 workpeople, and worked on an average 5·45 days per week in the four weeks ended 22nd October, an average practically identical with that of a year ago.

**Percentage of Unemployed.**—The miners in trade unions in Northumberland and Durham had 0·3 per cent. of their membership in receipt of unemployed benefit at the end of October, as compared with 0·2 per cent. in September, and 0·5 per cent. in October, 1897.

**Exports of Coal.**—The exports of coal, coke, cinders and patent fuel, during October, amounted to 3,299,177 tons, as against 3,506,218 tons in September, and 3,223,926 tons in October, 1897.

**(b) IRON MINING INDUSTRY IN OCTOBER.**

EMPLOYMENT in this industry was not quite so good in October as in September, or as a year ago. The most noticeable falling off in the month occurred in Staffordshire and Shropshire, and in Cleveland. In Cumberland and Lancashire the average time worked remained the same. In Scotland, although some improvement took place during the month, the condition of employment continues noticeably inferior to that of a year ago. The number employed is practically the same as in October, 1897.

Returns received relating to 133 iron mines and open works show that 17,287 workpeople were employed at these mines, or 11 less than a year ago. The average number of days worked per week during the four weeks ended October 22nd was 5·73, as compared with 5·82 days per week in September, and 5·88 days in October,







EMPLOYMENT IN OCTOBER—AGRICULTURAL LABOUR; SEAMEN.

Thetford, and Walsingham. A scarcity of labour is referred to in reports from the Unions of Docking, Downham, East and West Flegg, Forehoe, Freebridge Lynn, Loddon and Clavering, Swaffham, and Thetford.

Agricultural labourers in *Suffolk* are said to be fully employed in the Unions of Bosmere and Claydon, Cosford, Hartismere, Hoxne, Plomesgate, Risbridge, Samford, Sudbury, and Thingoe. Reports from the Unions of Bosmere and Claydon, Cosford, and Thingoe refer to some scarcity of labour. Most correspondents in the county say that work had got in a backward state owing to the drought, and that farmers are busy ploughing and wheat sowing. Favourable reports come from *Cambridgeshire* from the Unions of Caxton and Arrington, Chesterton, North Witchford, Whittlesea, and Wisbech, from the *Cambridgeshire* portion of the Royston Union (*Cambs and Herts*) and from the *Cambridgeshire* portion of the Peterborough Union (*Northants, Cambs, Hunts, and Lincoln*). Reports from the Unions of Chesterton, Peterborough, and Royston refer to some scarcity of labour. In *Lincolnshire* labourers are said to be well employed in the Unions of Boston, Brigg, Gainsborough, Grantham, Grimsby, Lincoln, Louth, Spilsby, and Stamford, and in the *Lincolnshire* portion of the Newark Union (*Lincs and Notts*). Reports from several districts in the county say that labour is rather scarce.

**Home Counties.**—In *Buckinghamshire* agricultural employment is said to be generally regular, with few exceptions, in the Unions of Aylesbury, Buckingham, and Newport Pagnell. A correspondent in the Buckingham Union states that farm work was rather slack in the earlier part of the month, owing to the dry weather. Favourable reports come from *Berkshire* from the Unions of Bradfield, and Wantage. A large employer in the Wantage Union states that farmers have been exceptionally busy, and that the labourers lost no time. Agricultural labourers are said to be well employed in *Surrey* in the Unions of Farnham (*Surrey and Hants*), Godstone, and Hambledon. An employer in the Godstone Union writes that employers are rather short of extra hands to help with steam threshing machines. Reports from *Kent* state that labourers are generally fully employed in the Unions of Blean, Cranbrook, Elham, Faversham, Hollingbourne, Hoo, and Sevenoaks. In the following Unions employers state that there is a scarcity of labour, namely, Blean, Cranbrook, Hoo, Faversham, and Sevenoaks. A correspondent in the last-named Union states that many farmers are behindhand with their work in consequence of the scarcity of labour during the busy season. In *Hertfordshire* employment is said to be regular in the Unions of Buntingford, Hatfield, Hertford, and Hitchin.

**Southern and South-Western Counties.**—Employment in *Sussex* is reported to be generally regular in the Unions of Battle, Chailey, Cuckfield, Hailsham, Horsham, Lewes, Newhaven, Petworth, Rye, and Uckfield. Reports say that farmers have been very busy taking up roots and wheat sowing, and that in some districts labour has been scarce. In *Hampshire* labourers are said to have been well employed, taking up roots, etc., in the Unions of Basingstoke, Christchurch, Hartley Wintney, Fareham, Havant, Kingsclere, Lymington, Petersfield, and Stockbridge, and in the *Hampshire* portion of the Farnham Union (*Hants and Surrey*).

Favourable reports come from *Dorsetshire* from the Unions of Blandford, Bridport, Dorchester, Wareham and Purbeck, and Wimborne. A report from a certain district in the Dorchester Union states that, although employment was generally regular, it was not so good as is usual at the time of year, owing to the failure of the root crop in a number of places, due to the drought.

In *Wiltshire* employment is said to be generally regular in the Unions of Amesbury, Bradford-on-Avon, Chippenham, Cricklade and Wootton Bassett, Devizes, Highworth and Swindon, Marlborough, Mere, Pewsey, Warminster, and Wilton. A number of employers write from this county to say that labour is scarce. An employer in the Chippenham Union states that there was a little irregularity of work for about a week, commencing October 17th, owing to wet weather, but after that work was very brisk.

Reports from *Gloucestershire* state that employment is generally regular in the Unions of Barton Regis, Circencester, Dursley, Gloucester, Northleach, Stow-on-the-Wold, Thornbury, Wheatenhurst, and Winchcombe. Some little irregularity of employment is reported among extra hands and men engaged at piecework owing to wet days in the Unions of Barton Regis, Dursley, and Thornbury. Agricultural labourers, particularly the more skilled hands, are said to be scarce in the Unions of Gloucester, Wheatenhurst, and Winchcombe. In *Herefordshire* work is reported as generally regular in the Unions of Bromyard, Dore (*Monmouth and Hereford*), Ledbury, and Ross. In the Bromyard Union a correspondent writes that

throughout the Union men are all fully engaged picking fruit, stripping hop poles, pulling swedes, raising potatoes, and wheat sowing. In the Dore Union there was some slight irregularity of work in the earlier part of the month, owing to the drought, and subsequently owing to wet days.

Employment in *Somerset* is said to be regular in the Unions of Bridgwater, Clutton, Langport, Taunton, Wellington, and Yeovil. A report from the Wellington Union states that a few casual hands engaged at threshing lost a little time on wet days. An employer in the Yeovil Union states that the drought delayed farm work in the earlier part of the month, but that after the rain came the men were very busy making up for lost time. At the end of the month they were busily engaged in cider making, wheat sowing, mangold carting, and threshing.

Favourable reports come from *Devonshire* from the Unions of Barnstaple, Crediton, Holsworthy, Kingsbridge, South Molton, Tavistock, and Torrington. A report from the Axminster Union refers to some slight irregularity of work owing to the root crop not being good. A correspondent in the Kingsbridge Union states that in the neighbourhood of Dartmouth labour is scarce in consequence of men leaving the country districts to work at the naval college in course of erection. In *Cornwall* employment is said to be generally regular in the Unions of Bodmin, Camelford, and Stratton.

(g) EMPLOYMENT OF SEAMEN IN OCTOBER.

(Data supplied by the Marine Department of the Board of Trade.)

THE number of men shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels from certain selected ports (at which over 80 per cent. of the total tonnage of vessels in the foreign trade is entered and cleared), was 32,843 in October last, being 174 more than in October, 1897. Employment at Newport and Cardiff continues to show a decline, the falling off in the number shipped in October, as compared with a year ago, amounting to 909. The other ports included in the table below, show on the whole an increase of 1,083 in the number shipped. At most of the ports the supply of seamen and firemen is reported as equal to or greater than the demand. At Middlesbrough and Leith, however, a general scarcity of men is reported, while at Cardiff, men for sailing vessels were rather scarce, and also at Liverpool in the latter part of the month.

Particulars of changes in the rates of wages of seamen and firemen at Swansea will be found in the table on page 345.

Table showing the number\* of men, &c., shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels at some of the principal ports of the United Kingdom in October, 1898 and 1897 respectively, together with the number\* shipped in the ten months ended October in each of these years:—

Principal Ports.	Number of Men, &c., shipped in October, 1898.*			Total in Oct., 1897.*	Total number shipped in ten months ended October*	
	In Sailing Vessels.	In Steam Vessels.	Total in Oct., 1898.*		1898.	1897.
<b>ENGLAND.</b>						
<b>East Coast.</b>						
Tyne Ports ...	34	3,190	3,224	2,527	38,194	34,486
Sunderland ...	—	353	353	359	6,274	6,201
Middlesbrough ...	17	413	430	247	3,645	4,667
Hull ...	13	1,011	1,024	1,285	14,285	12,419
Grimsby ...	—	105	105	70	1,529	1,896
<b>Bristol Channel.</b>						
Bristol ...	7	184	191	277	2,292	2,247
Newport, Mon. ...	31	765	796	1,198	6,414	12,425
Cardiff ...	430	4,548	4,978	5,485	34,736	54,826
Swansea ...	41	406	447	841	6,692	7,540
<b>Other Ports.</b>						
Liverpool ...	431	10,030	10,461	9,720	101,841	97,796
London ...	306	5,793	6,099	6,097	62,016	62,342
Southampton ...	—	1,412	1,412	1,559	14,985	18,646
<b>SCOTLAND.</b>						
Leith, Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth ...	—	575	575	496	6,917	7,028
Glasgow ...	106	2,183	2,289	2,166	28,490	24,158
<b>IRELAND.</b>						
Dublin ...	—	131	131	90	1,025	998
Belfast ...	20	328	348	222	2,971	2,398
<b>Total, Oct., 1898</b> ...	<b>1,436</b>	<b>31,407</b>	<b>32,843</b>	—	<b>334,306</b>	—
<b>Ditto, Oct., 1897</b> ...	<b>1,381</b>	<b>31,288</b>	—	<b>32,669</b>	—	<b>344,503</b>

\* It will be understood that the numbers given are the numbers of separate engagements, not of separate individuals.  
† Including Barry and Penarth.

EMPLOYMENT IN OCTOBER—DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR; TEXTILE; LONDON.

(h) LONDON DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR IN OCTOBER.

EMPLOYMENT at the docks was better in October than in the preceding month although not quite so good as in October, 1897. At the wharves the average number employed was greater than during either of these two periods, and at some wharves overtime was worked.

The daily average number employed at all the docks and the principal wharves during the four weeks ended October 22nd was 15,826, as compared with an average of 14,490 in the preceding four weeks, and 16,074 in the corresponding period of 1897. The estimated number employed on any one day ranged from 14,696 on October 11th to 16,867 on September 27th.

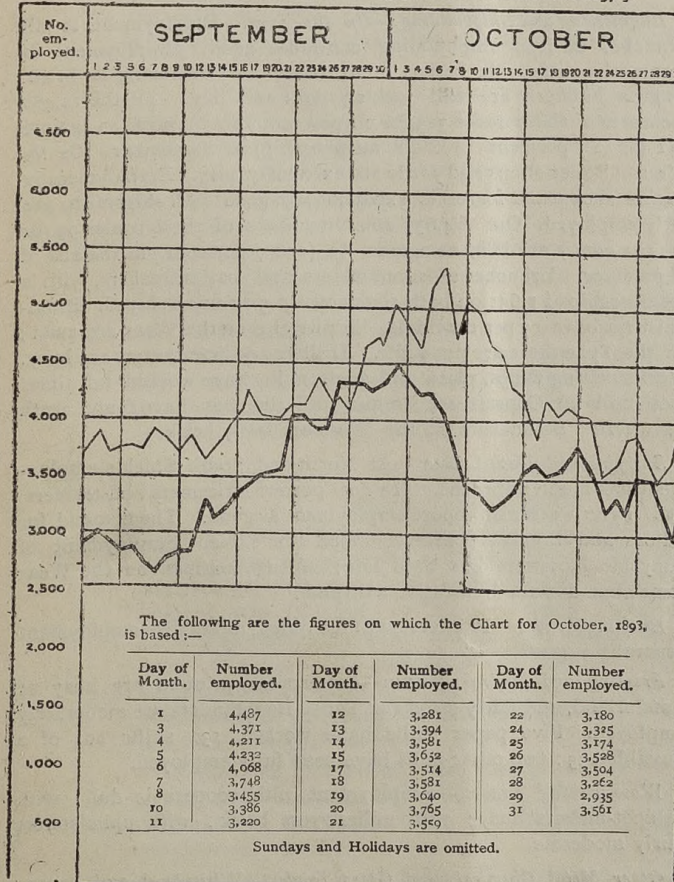
**Detailed Figures.**—(1) The following table shows the estimated daily average number of dock and wharf labourers employed in each week of the month:—

Period.	Labourers employed in Docks.			Labourers employed at 115 Wharves making Returns.	Total Dock and Wharf Labourers included in Returns.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
Week ending Oct. 1	8,003	2,180	10,183	6,420	16,603
" " " 8	7,260	2,081	9,341	6,400	15,741
" " " 15	6,382	2,256	8,638	6,376	15,014
" " " 22	6,906	2,444	9,350	6,394	15,744
<b>Average for 4 weeks ending Oct. 22nd, 1898</b>	<b>7,188</b>	<b>2,241</b>	<b>9,429</b>	<b>6,397</b>	<b>15,826</b>
<b>Average for Oct., 1897</b>	<b>7,752</b>	<b>2,001</b>	<b>9,753</b>	<b>6,321*</b>	<b>16,074*</b>
<b>Average for Sept., 1898</b>	<b>6,194</b>	<b>2,197</b>	<b>8,391</b>	<b>6,099</b>	<b>14,490</b>

(2) The daily fluctuation in the number of dock labourers employed by the London and India Docks Joint Committee during September and October is shown on the chart below.

Chart showing the total number of Dock Labourers employed by the Joint Committee at the London, St. Katharine, East and West India, Victoria and Albert Docks, and the Town Warehouses, for each day during the months of September and October, 1898. The corresponding curve for September and October, 1897, is also given for comparison.

(The thick curve applies to 1898, and the thin curve to 1897.)



During October, 1897, the total number of Dock Labourers employed varied from 5,385 on the 7th to 3,402 on the 20th. Taking the London and St. Katharine Docks only, the number employed during October, 1898, varied from 2,328 on the 1st to 1,073 on the 11th. Wool Sales were held from 21st September to 7th October in 1898, and from 30th September to 14th October in 1897.

\* Amended figures.

Work in midstream has been moderate, but steady, except on one or two days, when coasting boats were delayed by the weather. Deal porters and lumpers have been busy. Lightermen, stevedores, coal porters and winchmen have had moderate employment. Corn porters have been slack in the Surrey Docks, moderately well employed in the Victoria and Albert Docks, busy in the Millwall Docks.

The fruit porters in Thames-street have been moderately well employed. The daily average number employed has been 223, compared with 194 in September.

(i) EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN THE TEXTILE TRADES IN OCTOBER.

ACCORDING to returns from women correspondents, employment for women during the month showed an improvement in the cotton trade, and a decline in the woollen and worsted trades, although employment for men in the latter trades seems to have improved. Information has been received with regard to 533 cotton, woollen, worsted and silk mills, employing about 88,760 women and girls, and is summarised in the following table, which also gives for comparison the corresponding figures for the previous month and for a year ago:—

Trade and Month.	Percentage ordinarily employed in Mills which were			
	Working full time.		Working Short Time.	Closed for repairs, bad trade, disputes, or other causes.
	With Full Employment.	With Partial Employment.		
<b>Cotton Trade—</b>				
October, 1898 ...	88	10	—	2
September, 1898 ...	79	17	1	3
October, 1897 ...	64	26	8	2
<b>Woollen and Worsted Trades—</b>				
October, 1898 ...	71	16	13	—
September, 1898 ...	77	18	5	—
October, 1897 ...	70	17	13	—
<b>Silk Trade—</b>				
October, 1898 ...	59	9	32	—
September, 1898 ...	54	10	36	—
October, 1897 ...	54	15	31	—
<b>Total of above Trades—</b>				
October, 1898 ...	83	14	5	1
September, 1898 ...	77	17	3	3
October, 1897 ...	65	23	10	2

**Cotton Trade.**—The number of women and girls usually employed in the cotton mills reported on is 65,020; of these 88 per cent. were employed in mills working full time (to be compared with 79 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in September, and with 64 per cent. in October, 1897); 10 per cent. in mills running full time, but giving only partial employment; while mills employing 2 per cent. were stopped during the whole or part of the month.

**Woollen and Worsted Trades.**—The number of women and girls usually employed in the woollen and worsted mills reported on is 18,990; of these 71 per cent. were employed in mills running full time (to be compared with 77 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in September, and 70 per cent. in October, 1897); 16 per cent. in mills running full time, but giving only partial employment; and 13 per cent. in mills running short time.

DISTRICT REPORTS FROM LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS.

LONDON.

**Employment in various Industries.**—On the whole, the state of employment during October was good. Returns from 420 branches of 111 unions, having an aggregate membership of 72,990, show that 2,385 (or 3·3 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 3·5 per cent. in September, and also in October, 1897.

Employment in the *Engineering, Metal, and Shipbuilding* trades, particularly the last, is scarcely so good. Reports from 124 branches of 27 unions, with an aggregate membership of 20,863, show that 845 (or 4·1 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of October, compared with 3·3 in September. Employment with sailmakers was good.



## EMPLOYMENT IN OCTOBER—DISTRICT REPORTS.—LONDON; NORTHERN COUNTIES.

The *Building* trades still remain briskly employed. Returns from 180 branches of 6 unions paying unemployed benefit, with a membership of 11,322, show that 99 (or 0.9 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of October, compared with 0.8 in September, and 1.0 per cent. in October, 1897. The bricklayers, stonemasons, stonemasons, carpenters and joiners, and millwrights describe employment as good; the plasterers as fair; the plumbers and painters and decorators as moderate.

Employment in the *Furnishing* trades has still further improved. Returns from 42 branches of 10 unions, with a membership of 6,546, show that 137 (or 2.1 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of October, compared with 2.5 in September, and 3.2 per cent. in October, 1897.

*Coopers* still remain busy, only one member being again returned as unemployed. The percentage for October, 1897, was 0.5.

*Coachbuilders and Wheelwrights* are now busy. Returns from 12 branches of 8 unions, with a membership of 1,386, show that 21 (or 1.5 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of October, compared with 2.0 in September, and 1.7 per cent. in October of last year.

Employment in the *Printing and Bookbinding* trades has improved. Returns from 22 unions, with a membership of 22,634, show that 707 (or 3.1 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of October, compared with 4.5 in September. The percentage for October, 1897, was also 3.1.

Employment in the *Clothing* trades remains dull. The West End bespoke tailors were quiet, improving towards the end of the month; the East End bespoke tailors were also quiet; the wholesale and contract trades bad; the ladies' tailors and mantle-makers were slack. Employment with batters has slightly improved; with fur skindressers it is slack; with silkweavers fair.

*Boot and Shoe Trades.*—Employment in the West End hand-sewn branch has slightly improved; in the East End sewound branch it is still fair; with boot and shoe operatives it is quiet, numbers being still unemployed or only partially employed.

Employment in the *Leather* trades, though still quiet, remains steady. Returns from six unions, with a membership of 1,668, show that 77 (or 4.6 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of October, compared with 4.7 in September, and 2.7 per cent. in October, 1897.

In the *Glass and Pottery* trades returns from eight unions, with a membership of 1,434, show that 60 (or 4.2 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of October, compared with 4.6 in September, and 4.5 per cent. in October last of year.

*Hair, Fibre, and Caneworkers.*—In these trades returns from five unions, with a membership of 916, show that 22 (or 2.4 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of October, compared with 5.4 in September, and 2.5 per cent. in October, 1897.

*Gold and Silver Workers* are scarcely so well employed. Returns from eight unions, with a membership of 1,072, show that 27 (or 2.5 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of October, compared with 1.8 in September. The percentage in October, 1897, was 0.9.

Employment in the *Tobacco* trades has still further improved. Returns from four unions, with a membership of 2,434, show that 67 (or 2.8 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of October, compared with 3.5 in September and 2.0 per cent. in October, 1897.

*Dock and Riverside Labour.*—In the four weeks ended October 22nd an average number of 15,826 labourers were employed daily at all the docks and the principal wharves, as compared with 14,490 in the preceding four weeks, and 16,074 in the corresponding period of 1897. Work in mid-stream has been moderate, but steady, except on one or two days when coasting boats were delayed by the weather. Deal porters and lumpers have been busy. Lightermen, stevedores, coal porters, and winchmen have had moderately good employment. Corn porters have been slack in the Surrey Docks, moderately well employed in the Victoria and Albert Docks, busy in the Millwall Docks. Fruit porters have been moderately well employed. (For further details see p. 335).

*Disputes and Trade Movements.*—Three fresh disputes were reported to the Department as having arisen during the month, viz., one each in the building and furnishing trades, and one with gasworkers, involving in all about 100 persons (see pp. 348 and 349). Increases in wages were granted to 2,937 gasworkers and 139 carters' labourers (see p. 345).

*Labour Bureaux.*—Returns from eight labour bureaux show that 1,946 fresh applications for work were registered during October, as compared with 1,721 in October, 1897. Of these 707 in October, 1898, and 636 in October, 1897, were applications by women and girls. Work was found by these bureaux during October for 1,025 persons (including 223 women and girls), compared with 821 (including 429 women and girls), in the corresponding

month of 1897. The number of persons on the registers at the end of October, 1898, was 2,114, or 29 less than a year ago. (For further details see page 347.)

*Pauperism.*—The number of persons relieved on one day in the second week of October was 100,362, being 1,189 more than on the corresponding day of September. As compared with October, 1897, there is an increase of 775, that in the North district being 588 and in the East district 280.

On the same day in October, 1,123 vagrants were relieved, as compared with 764 on the corresponding day of September, and with 1,190 a year ago.

In West Ham the number of persons (exclusive of vagrants) relieved on one day in the second week was 8,955 in October, 8,973 in September, and 8,083 in October, 1897. (For further details see page 347.)

## ENGLAND: NORTHERN COUNTIES.

## Tyne and Wear District.

*Coal Mining.—Northumberland.*—Steam coal pits, owing to stormy weather, have worked somewhat irregularly, the average number of days being 5.15 per week. House coal collieries have worked 5.46 days. Out of 21,120 union miners 17 (or 0.08 per cent.) are idle, as against 32 (or 0.15 per cent.) in September. The colliery mechanics and enginemen have none unemployed. *Durham.*—Collieries producing coking and a mixed class of coal have been the best employed, averaging respectively 5.71 and 5.72 days per week. Pits having manufacturing, house and gas coal, average 5.56, 5.47 and 5.4 days respectively, as compared with 5.69, 5.49 and 5.47 in September. Returns from 117 collieries, employing 58,216 men and boys, show an average of 5.58 days worked per week, the same as in September. There are 263 or 0.43 per cent. of union miners unemployed through bad trade, as against 150, or 0.24 per cent., in September, as well as 0.54 per cent. from other causes. Of the 2,830 deputies, enginemen and firemen 30 are off work. Coke workers continue busy.

*Metal Mining.*—Lead, and iron ore mines in Weardale and district are busy.

*Quarrying.*—Limestone quarries generally have worked full time. In Gateshead and district employment has not been quite so regular, owing to the weather. Two or three whinstone quarries have lost a few days.

*Engineering and Shipbuilding.*—On the Tyne.—Employment in all branches of iron shipbuilding continues good. Employment in locomotive shops is better. Ordnance manufacturing is brisk. Engine builders are still working night and day. Of the 12,480 members of these trades 303 (or 2.4 per cent.) are off work, as against 341 (or 2.7 per cent. of their membership) in September. *On the Wear.*—Boiler-shops and yards are extremely busy. Employment in engine shops and forges is exceptionally good. All shipsmiths are fully employed. Out of 4,633 union members of these trades 99 (or 2.1 per cent.) are idle, as against 82 (or 1.7 per cent.) at the end of September. Branches of ironmoulders and patternmakers, with a membership of 1,651 on both rivers return 5 as unemployed. Brass-finishers have 0.7 per cent. idle. Shipwrights on the Wear are quiet; on the Tyne there are none idle. Drillers and hole-cutters are busy. Steel-smelting shops, plate and angle mills have worked full time. Iron mills at Consett are stopped; all the men have found work elsewhere. Sailmakers on the Wear are fairly brisk.

*Shipping and Dock Labour.*—At North and South Shields employment has much improved. The coal porters, trimmers and teamers, and Tyne watermen report employment as good. The demand for sailors and firemen continues much the same. Employment of quayside labourers has been fair; of tug boatmen on the Wear somewhat unsettled, owing to a dispute.

*Building Trades.*—Painters continue quiet; otherwise employment generally is good.

*Printing and kindred Trades.*—Letterpress printers are busy at Sunderland, and fairly so on the Tyne. Bookbinders are moderately employed. Five paper mills have worked 132 shifts out of a possible 235; two other mills have been fully employed.

*Woodworking Trades.*—Employment with coopers is dull; with cabinet-makers busy; with millwrights brisk; with upholsterers fairly moderate.

*Other Metal, Chemical, and Glass Trades.*—Whitelead and copper works are busy. Chemical workers generally are in fairly full employment. Cement factories are working steadily. Pressed glass makers are moderately employed. Bottle-makers on the Wear are well employed; at Seaham Harbour only fairly so.

## EMPLOYMENT IN OCTOBER—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—NORTHERN COUNTIES; LANCASHIRE.

*Fishing.*—This industry has been much interrupted by stormy weather, one week's fishing being entirely lost. When the boats have been able to work good catches have been landed. Average prices have prevailed.—*J. Ratcliffe.*

## Middlesbrough, Stockton and District.

*Shipping and Dock Labour.*—Sailors and firemen report employment as quiet both at Middlesbrough and Hartlepool. Dock labour has been fairly good at both ports, and at times busy. Riverside labour has been bad.

*Shipbuilding.*—All the yards in the district are reported as brisk. Shipjoiners report employment as good; shipwrights as very good, with none unemployed.

*Engineering.*—The engineers report employment as good at Middlesbrough, Stockton, and Bishop Auckland; as moderate at Darlington and Hartlepool; the patternmakers, and ironfounders as good throughout the district. Branches with 3,573 members have 31 (or 0.9 per cent.) unemployed as against 28 (or 0.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

*Iron and Steel Trades.*—Employment continues good at the finished iron works. In the foundries and steel works it is good generally, some of the mills being busy. Employment continues good at the blast furnaces and bridge works. Metal expansion works are busy.

*Ironstone Mining.*—The Cleveland miners continue fairly well employed, the number of days worked by 22 mines reported on, averaging 5.69 days per week during the four weeks ending October 22nd, as compared with 5.92 days per week during the 4 weeks ending October 23rd, 1897.

*Building Trades.*—Employment with plumbers is moderate; with painters slack; in other branches it is good.

*Miscellaneous.*—Printers report employment as good; tailors as quiet; cabinet makers, at Middlesbrough, as fair; mill sawyers as good.—*A. Main.*

## Cumberland and Barrow District.

The following is a summary of the returns received as to the state of employment in the above district:—

*Coal Mining.*—Employment in this industry was not so good in October as in September, but continues better than a year ago. The average number of days worked during the four weeks ended October 22nd at the 20 pits from which returns have been received was 5.75 per week, as compared with 5.96 days per week in September, and 5.55 days per week in October, 1897. The number of workpeople employed was 6,137, the corresponding number for last year being 6,215.

*Iron Mining.*—Employment continues to be good at the iron mines of Cumberland and North Lancashire. The average number of days worked during the four weeks ended October 22nd at the 46 mines from which returns have been received was 5.95 per week, showing no change as compared with September and with October, 1897. The number of workpeople employed at the 46 mines was 6,253 as against 6,390 in October of last year.

*Pig-iron Manufacture.*—Returns from Cumberland and North Lancashire show that the number of furnaces in blast at the works covered by the returns was 46 at the end of October, or 2 less than at the end of September, though 1 more than at the end of October, 1897. The number of workpeople employed at the furnaces in October was 3,539, a decrease of 98 as compared with September, and of 8 as compared with a year ago.

## LANCASHIRE AND NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS.

## Oldham and District.

*Cotton Trade.—Spinning.*—Employment in the spinning trade is still reported as generally good in Oldham, Rochdale, Mossley, Stalybridge, Stockport, and Ashton-under-Lyne. The cardroom operatives in Oldham and Mossley report employment as fair, twiners as slack, ring frame spinners and throstle frame tenters as good. *Weaving.*—The powerloom overlookers and weavers report employment as slack in velvets, moderate in calicoes, bad in fustians, slack in reeling, moderate in beam and sectional warping, and good with ball warpers.

*Woollen and Silk Trades.*—Employment in the woollen trade is reported as slack in Rochdale and Milnrow districts, and as moderate in Stockport. The silk dressers of Rochdale report employment as slack.

*Engineering and Metal Trades.*—Employment with the engineers, ironfounders, boiler-makers, irongrinders, and tinplate workers is reported as moderate; with the pattern-makers, plate and machine moulders, brassfounders, and gas-meter makers as good. In the cycle departments employment is reported as slack.

*Building Trades.*—The plasterers and bricklayers report employment as good; plumbers and carpenters and joiners as moderate, and painters as slack.

*Coal Mining.*—Miners in Oldham, Ashton, Royton, Chadderton, and Crompton districts report employment as good, full time being worked.—*T. Ashton.*

## Bolton and District.

*Cotton Trade.—Spinning.*—In Bolton, Farnworth, Walkden, Ratcliffe, and Hindley employment continues to improve. In Bury it remains fair; in Chorley it is reported as irregular at two firms, and steady at the rest; in Wigan and district spinners are better employed. Card and blowing room operatives report employment in Bolton as good; in Chorley, Wigan, and Bury as still somewhat irregular. *Weaving.*—In Bolton and vicinity a slight improvement is reported; in Chorley employment has improved in calico weaving and in coloured goods; at Wigan and Bury weavers are moderately well employed.

*Engineering and Iron Trades.*—Employment is reported as fair with engineers at most firms; busy in iron machine-making firms; fair with brassfounders and sheet metal workers; irregular with iron and steel workers. In Bury iron workers are fully employed. At Chorley and Wigan employment is steady.

*Building Trades.*—Employment in Chorley continues slack; in the rest of the district it is fairly good generally.

*Coal Mining.*—In Bolton, Little Lever, Little Hulton, and Ratcliffe collieries are busy and employment good. In Wigan, Ince, Westhoughton, and Hindley the best collieries are working on an average 5.4 days per week.—*R. Tootill.*

## Blackburn, Burnley and District.

*Cotton Trade.—Weaving.*—In the Blackburn and Burnley districts, employment continues fairly good. In Preston it is moderate. In Colne it has improved, especially in the fancy trade; in Nelson it continues only moderate; in Darwen 1,006 looms are still stopped, the rest being on full time. Employment with hard-waste weavers is good, with warp dressers moderately good, with loomers and drawers fair, with winders and beamers good throughout the district. *Spinning.*—In the Preston, Blackburn and Accrington districts employment continues good; in Darwen and Padiham fair; in Burnley only moderate. Cardroom-workers keep fully employed. Branches of spinners, twisters and drawers and warp dressers with 4,023 members have 172 (or 4.3 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 141 (or 3.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

*Building Trades.*—Joiners report employment as quiet in Blackburn and Accrington, dull in Burnley. Painters are slack in Burnley, moderately employed in Blackburn; masons, wallers and bricklayers are fairly well employed; plumbers are slack.

*Engineering and Iron Trades.*—Employment continues good, especially in the machine and erecting shops.

*Mining and Quarrying.*—Coalminers report employment as good in the Accrington district; brisk in Burnley. Stone quarrymen are fairly well employed.

*Miscellaneous.*—Employment with calico printers and dyers is reported as improved; with cabinet-makers as not brisk; with shuttle-makers as moderate; with felt printers in the Rosendale district as slack; with boot, shoe, and slipper makers as only moderate.—*W. H. Wilkinson.*

## Manchester and District.

*General.*—Branches of societies with 21,191 members have 707 (or 3.3 per cent.) unemployed, the same percentage of their membership as at the end of September.

*Engineering and Metal Trades.*—Engineers in Manchester, Warrington, Stockport and Macclesfield report employment as moderate; in Northwich as bad; boiler-makers as moderate throughout the district; sheet metal workers as fair in Manchester and Warrington; ironfounders, brassfounders and finishers and machine workers as good; smiths and strikers as good in Manchester, bad in Northwich; wire-drawers as improved; wire weavers remain fully employed, filesmiths moderately so.

*Building Trades.*—Employment in Manchester is reported as good by stonemasons, bricklayers, bricklayers' labourers, and decorative glass workers; as moderate by carpenters and joiners, plumbers, and plasterers. In Stockport, Macclesfield, Northwich, and Warrington, employment generally is moderate. With painters employment is bad throughout the district.

*Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.*—French polishers and cabinet-makers in Manchester and Warrington report employment



## EMPLOYMENT IN OCTOBER—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—LANCASHIRE AND YORKSHIRE.

as fair; upholsterers as slack. Coachmakers in both railway and private firms continue busy. Coopers are moderately well employed.

*Printing and kindred Trades.*—Letterpress printers in Manchester report employment as improving, and stereotypers as good. In other towns employment is moderate. Pattern-cardmakers are busy; bookbinders are quiet. Lithographic artists are fairly busy; lithographic printers report employment as moderate.

*Textile Trades.*—Cotton-spinners in Manchester and Stockport report employment as moderate; in Macclesfield spinners and card-room workers are fully employed. Weavers, winders and warpers at Macclesfield have been rather better employed. Employment in the silk trade shows no change, most departments being slack; fustian-cutters are not busy; bleachers and dyers report employment as moderate; dressers, dyers, and finishers as busy with heavy goods, moderate in the velvet trade.

*Clothing Trades.*—In the bespoke department of the tailoring trade in Manchester, Stockport and Warrington employment is reported as moderate, and in the Jewish branch as improving. Boot and shoe operatives are fairly busy. Hatters continue badly employed on men's felts, moderately employed on ladies' felts. Ready-made mantle-makers, shirt-makers, and waterproof garment-makers are busy. Capmakers are quiet.—G. D. Kelley.

## Liverpool and District.

*Shipbuilding and Engineering.*—Boilermakers and iron-shipbuilders report employment as moderate; pattern-makers, engineers, and brassfounders as good; drillers and holecutters, whitesmiths, and hammermen as fair; shipwrights as busy; ship joiners as moderate; sailmakers as dull.

*Transport Trades.*—Sailors and firemen, dock labourers, and flatmen report employment as fair; quay and railway carters as improved; coal heavers as moderate.

*Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.*—All branches of the furnishing trade and coachmakers and painters, mill sawyers, machinists, and coopers report employment as moderate.

*Printing and allied Trades.*—Lithographic printers report employment as good; letterpress printers and bookbinders as quiet.

*Clothing Trades.*—Bespoke tailors report employment as fair, other branches as good; boot and shoe makers as fair.

*Building Trades.*—Plumbers report employment as better; painters as dull; carpenters and joiners as fair. All other branches are fully employed.

*Coal-mining and Quarrying.*—Coal-miners continue well employed. Quarrymen are busy.

*Glass and Chemical Trades.*—Glass bottlemakers continue dull; sheet glass flatteners are fully employed; decorative glass workers continue busy. Chemical workers remain moderately employed.—C. Rouse.

A report from Winsford states that employment in the salt trade continues slack. In the building trades in Winsford and Middlewich it is moderate; with the fustian cutters at both towns it is extremely slack. Moulders at Winsford report employment as fair.

## YORKSHIRE.

## Hull and District.

*Shipbuilding, Engineering and Metal Trades.*—Employment in the engineering trades continues busy; in the shipbuilding trades it is not so brisk. Employment in Hull with engineers, machine-workers, smiths and strikers, farriers, pattern-makers, ironfounders, brassfounders and finishers, iron and steel dressers, is reported as good; with shipwrights as fair; with boilermakers, brassworkers, drillers and hole cutters, and sailmakers as moderate. Iron shipbuilders, smiths, engineers and shipwrights at Beverley, Grimsby, New Holland, and Selby report employment as good; at Goole as moderate. Boiler-makers at Doncaster report employment as good; engineers as moderate.

*Building Trades.*—Employment generally continues good throughout the district.

*Transport Trades.*—The seamen, marine firemen, dock labourers, and railway-workers at Hull, Goole, Grimsby, and Selby report employment as good.

*Fishing Industry.*—The steam fishing vessel engineers and firemen at Hull and Grimsby report employment as good; the trawl fishermen as fair at Grimsby, moderate at Hull; the line fishermen at Grimsby as moderate; the fish market labourers and curing-house workers as good at Grimsby, fair at Hull.

*Seedcrushing, Oil, Paint, and Colour Trades.*—Employment for the seedcrushing millworkers is reported as improved. The paint and colour-workers continue fairly well employed.

*Printing and allied Trades.*—The letterpress printers at Doncaster report employment as good, at Hull as moderate, but improving the lithographic printers at Hull as moderate; the bookbinders as quiet.

*Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.*—Employment is good for sawmill-workers. The coopers and cabinet-makers in Hull report employment as moderate. The coachbuilders at Hull and Doncaster as good.

*Leather Trades.*—The tanners, lacecutters, and leather belt makers at Hull report employment as fair; the curriers and leather-dressers at Doncaster as moderate.

*Miscellaneous.*—The bakers and confectioners at Hull report employment as moderate; the general labourers as fair; the gas-workers as moderate; the brushmakers as bad.—W. G. Millington.

## Leeds and District.

*General.*—Branches of societies with 8,307 members have 233 (or 2·8 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 227 (or 2·7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

*Engineering and Metal Trades.*—Employment in the engineering industry continues good, but overtime is less general; with iron-moulders, boiler-makers, steelworkers, pattern-makers, machine-workers, stove grate-workers, and tinplate-workers it is good; with brassworkers fair. At Wakefield all shops are fairly well employed.

*Clothing Trades.*—Employment in the ready-made clothing trade has been slack. Jewish operatives are only working three and four days per week. Bespoke tailoring is improving. In the boot and shoe industry employment continues good. Slipper-makers are rather better employed.

*Textile Trades.*—Employment in the Leeds mills continues only moderate, with some short time. Blanket-raisers and willeys and fettlers report employment as moderate; linen-workers as fairly good. At Wakefield worsted mills are slack. At Yeadon employment continues bad, three or four mills being now idle.

*Building Trades.*—In Leeds plumbers and painters are quiet, other branches are well employed. At Harrogate employment is good.

*Coal Mining.*—The pits in Leeds, Wakefield, Pontefract, and Castleford districts are generally working full time.

*Leather Trades.*—Tanners report employment as continuing to improve. Curriers and leather-shavers have been fairly well employed. Saddlers and harness-makers are quiet.

*Printing and kindred Trades.*—Employment with letterpress printers has been good; with lithographers fair; with bookbinders, machine-rulers, and paper mill workers only moderate.

*Glass Trades.*—Glass bottle makers are fairly well employed in Leeds and Wakefield; dull at Castleford. Flint glass makers in Leeds report a slight slackening in employment.

*Miscellaneous.*—Employment with brushmakers continues to improve. With cabinet-makers it is good; with coachmakers moderate. Terra cotta workers are busy.—O. Connellan.

## Bradford, Huddersfield, and District.

*Worsted Trade.*—Employment in the worsted trade in Bradford shows a slight improvement; and in the Worth Valley also one or two firms are running their looms overtime where they have men. In Huddersfield, where a few of the largest firms were running their looms overtime, two of them have stopped their weavers at the regular time. In Halifax employment is described as moderate.

*Woollen Trade.*—Employment in and around Huddersfield seems good. Several mills in Huddersfield and in the Colne Valley are working overtime. In one or two cases double shifts are employed. Employment in the heavy woollen district seems a little better.

*Other Textile Industries.*—Employment in the cotton trade continues moderately good in Huddersfield; in Brighouse, Halifax, and Bradford, improvement is reported. Employment in the silk trade at Brighouse is described as moderate. In the carpet trade of Halifax and district it continues dull.

*Metal Trades.*—Employment in the engineering trade at Bradford and Huddersfield is described as moderate; at Dewsbury as good; at Halifax as fair; and at Keighley as declining. Wireworkers at Brighouse are reported as busy, but at Lindley and Halifax employment is only moderate.

*Building Trades.*—Employment is still fairly good in these trades.

*Miscellaneous.*—Dyers at Bradford report employment as quiet; at Huddersfield and Brighouse as moderate. Employment in the rag trade has declined. Tailors are quiet. Printers have been busier.—A. Gee.

## EMPLOYMENT IN OCTOBER—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—YORKSHIRE AND MIDLAND COUNTIES.

## Sheffield, Barnsley, and Rotherham District.

*Iron and Steel Industries.*—Blast furnacemen, puddlers, merchant iron rollers, forge and press men, makers of patent shot and shell, iron and steel dressers, core makers, iron and steel foundries, Siemens steel smelters, and engineers report employment as good. Boiler and girder makers, enginemen and cranemen, drivers and stokers, wire drawers and railway spring makers, and Bessemer steel workers are moderately employed. At Barnsley engineers are well employed, iron foundries moderately so. In the Rotherham district the iron workers are quiet; at Parkgate and Iccles steel makers are busy, but spring and axle makers are quiet. Bath makers are well employed, and stove grate workers are busy. Branches with 5,540 members have 38 (or 0·7 per cent.) unemployed, the same number as at the end of September.

*Cutlery and Tools.*—Engineers' tool makers, edge tool forgers, file forgers, and file machine cutters report employment as moderate. Saw makers and file cutters by hand, table blade forgers, and grinders are quiet, and saw handle makers, razor makers, and pen and pocket-knife forgers, grinders, and cutlers are slack. Handle and scale cutters report employment as bad.

*Coal Mining.*—This branch of industry continues exceptionally busy. Returns from 55 collieries show an average of 5·76 days per week worked during October.

*Other Metal Trades.*—Silversmiths report employment as good; hollow-ware buffers as fair; silver and metal stampers, platers and gilders, spoon and fork filers and brass-workers as moderate.

*Building Trades.*—Employment at Barnsley is only moderate; elsewhere it is good throughout the district.

*Glass Trades.*—The bottle-makers at Barnsley continue slack, and are still playing every third week. Flint-glass workers are moderately employed; the Mexbro' bottle-makers are slack; at Rotherham they are fairly well employed.

*Clothing Trades.*—Bespoke tailors in Sheffield are slack. Employment in the ready-made tailoring trade is moderate. In the boot and shoe trade it is good in Barnsley; fair elsewhere.

*Linen Trade.*—Employment at Barnsley has improved and is fair.

*Printing and kindred Trades.*—Bookbinders report employment as good, letterpress printers as fair, and lithographers as moderate.

*Woodworking and Coachbuilding.*—Cabinetmakers are well employed; coachmakers are fairly busy; railway carriage and wagon builders in Sheffield are busy. At Rotherham wagon builders are quiet. At Barnsley bobbin makers are well employed.

*Miscellaneous.*—Employment is slack with boxmakers; fair with harness makers and saddlers; good with farriers paper makers, and down quilt makers.—S. Utley.

## ENGLAND: MIDLAND COUNTIES.

## Derbyshire District.

*General.*—Branches of societies (exclusive of coal miners) with 7,330 members have 95 (or 1·3 per cent.) unemployed, as against 81 (or 1·1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

*Engineering and kindred Trades.*—Employment is moderate at the locomotive works, and good in bridge, girder, and boiler yards. Ironfounders, brass-moulders and finishers, stove grate workers, wire drawers, merchant iron rollers, makers of railway materials, farriers, blast furnacemen, pipe-moulders, malleable iron workers, and lace machine builders report employment as good; cycle-workers in Long Eaton and Draycott as bad.

*Textile Trades.*—Employment continues good with cotton spinners and weavers in Hadfield, Glossop, Borrowash, and Belper. With hosiery workers it is dull in Heanor, fair in Ilkeston and Belper. Calico printers and engravers report employment as fair; surgical bandage makers as good; elastic web weavers as bad; lace workers as still bad in Ilkeston, improving in Long Eaton; dyers and bleachers as moderate.

*Building Trades.*—Employment generally continues fair throughout the district.

*Coal Mining.*—At collieries employing upwards of 29,000 men an average of 5 days per week has been worked, as compared with 4½ days in September.

*Quarrying.*—Limestone quarrymen continue well employed. Chert quarrymen are busy, many working overtime.

*Coachbuilding and Woodworking Trades.*—Employment in Derby and Long Eaton continues good with railway carriage and wagon builders, and with carriage-builders in private shops. Coopers at Burton-on-Trent report employment as still slack. Most timber yards are fairly well employed.

*Clothing Trades.*—Boot and shoe operatives report employment as dull in Derby; improving in Chesterfield. Tailors in the bespoke

department report employment as moderate; dress and mantle makers as fair; wholesale garment-makers as good.

*Printing Trades.*—Employment with letterpress printers is reported as moderate; with lithographers as fair; with bookbinders and machine rulers as improving.—C. White-Deacon.

## Nottingham and District.

*Lace Trade.*—Employment generally is better. The levers and curtain branches report employment as moderate; the plain net branch as fair; the warp lace as bad; warpers as moderate; card-punchers as good; curtain readers and correctors, designers and draughtsmen, and the female operatives as slack. Bleachers report an improvement. Dyers at Nottingham and Basford are slack.

*Hosiery Trade.*—Employment with power machine workers is better in Nottingham, fair in outside districts. Hand frame workers in Nottingham are busy on military orders; slack, except on best goods, at Sutton-in-Ashfield and Mansfield.

*Engineering and Metal Trades.*—In general machine and engineering shops employment shows a decline. Stovegrate fitters report employment as moderate; brassfounders, carriage straighteners, and bobbin and carriage makers as fairly good; other brassworkers as quiet. Blastfurnacemen at Bulwell are well employed. Employment is good at Mansfield and Grantham, slack at Beeston. Branches with 2,312 members have 111 (or 4·8 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 117 (or 5·0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September. Many cycle workers are still unemployed but a slight improvement is reported.

*Coal Mining.*—Returns from 32 pits employing 17,000 men show an average of 4½ days worked per week. Pits in North Notts continue fully employed. In the Leen Valley district pits maintain the improvement reported. A few pits in South Notts are not so busy.

*Building Trades.*—At Nottingham painters are slack and plumbers quiet, other trades are fairly employed. Employment is good at Colwick, Netherfield, Newark, Grantham, Worksop, Mansfield, Beeston, and Retford.

*Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.*—Millsawyers report employment as moderate; coachmakers as improved at Nottingham, but quiet at Newark; boxmakers as good; cabinet-makers and upholsterers as fairly busy.

*Printing and allied Trades.*—Letterpress printers report employment as good; lithographic printers and artists as moderate; bookbinders as fair.

*Clothing Trades.*—Boot and shoe operatives report employment as good at Mansfield, fair at Hucknall Torkard; moderate at Nottingham; bespoke tailors as quiet at Grantham, Newark, Mansfield, and Nottingham; ready-made tailoring operatives are fairly busy; mantle-makers report regular employment.

*Miscellaneous.*—Female cigar-makers report employment as good; gas-stokers as improving; bakers and confectioners as moderate. Railway servants are busy. W. L. Harvstaff.

## Leicester and Northampton District.

*Boot and Shoe Industry.*—Although a slight improvement in some branches of the boot and shoe trade is reported at Leicester, Hinckley, Kettering, and Northampton, the number of operatives wholly unemployed and on short time is still much above the average for the season of the year.

*Other Clothing Trades.*—Employment in the wholesale and bespoke clothing trade is good at Kettering, and improving at Leicester and Northampton. Corset-makers and milliners are better employed. Capmakers are busy, and silk hatters quiet.

*Hosiery and Woolspinning Trades.*—Work is fairly regular in the shirt and pant branches, and moderate in the plain and half-hose departments. Dyers, trimmers, and scourers are generally fully employed, except on heavy goods. Operatives in the woolspinning factories are working full time.

*Elastic Web Trade.*—Employment generally continues slack.

*Engineering and Cycle Trades.*—At Leicester, Northampton and Rugby employment is regular in the general engineering trade. It is good at Loughborough in all branches. Work is good with ironfounders, moderate with boiler-makers, and slack with needle-makers and cycle-makers.

*Mining and Quarrying.*—The South Leicestershire coal-miners are more fully employed. Work continues good with stone quarrymen, and lime and ironstone workers.

*Printing and Bookbinding.*—Employment is good with letterpress printers at Leicester, Kettering and Northampton, and moderate at Loughborough and Rugby. It is fair with lithographic printers and bookbinders.



## EMPLOYMENT IN OCTOBER—DISTRICT REPORTS (continued)—MIDLAND AND EASTERN COUNTIES.

**Building Trades.**—Except with painters, employment continues good at Leicester and Loughborough.

**Furnishing and Coachmaking Trades.**—All branches of the furnishing trades report employment as good. At Loughborough, car-builders and cabinet-makers are making overtime. Work is brisk with railway-wagon builders and repairers, and moderate with coachmakers.

**Leather Trades.**—Tanners and curriers at Leicester and Northampton are slack; they are more fully employed at Market Harborough.

**Miscellaneous.**—Employment is good with railway-workers, cigar-makers, leather trunk and legging-makers, bakers and confectioners, brick and tilemakers, gas-stokers, and basket-makers; fair with millsawyers; slack with brushmakers and boxmakers.—*T. Smith.*

**Potteries District.**

**Pottery Trades.**—Employment has further improved. Hollow-ware presses have averaged nearly 5 days per week. Sanitary presses continue busy. Flat presses report an improvement, and during the last week of the month have averaged five days. Printers and transferrers continue slack. Women gilders and decorators, men artists, and throwers, turners and handlers in the general trade, and ovenmen, kilnmen and saggar makers report a slight improvement. Designers, modellers, and mould makers, encaustic tile makers, and electrical workers continue busy. Women still and spur makers are averaging 4 days per week.

**Iron and Steel Trades.**—Puddlers, steel workers, and blastfurnace-men continue busy. Rollers in the plate and merchant mills report a slight improvement.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—Engineers, boiler-makers, and moulders in North Staffordshire continue well employed, with none out of work. At Crewe and Stafford all branches are busy. Copper-workers at Oakmoor and Froghall continue busy. Brass finishers and moulders at Longport and Melton are well employed; agricultural engineers at Rugeley and Uttoxeter are working full time. Anchor and chain makers at Ford Green are busy.

**Coal Mining.**—At Talk-o'-the-Hill and district coal miners are busy, and the night turn is running regularly. In the pottery district coal and ironstone workers are fully employed. At Cheadle employment continues good.

**Textile Trades.**—At Leek trimming weavers report a scarcity of employment; silk twisters report a slight improvement; pickers are well employed; doublers and throwsters are working full time; dyers report a slight decline; braidworkers are busy. At Congleton trimming weavers continue slack; silk dressers continue busy; fustian cutters continue slack, over one-half being out of work and the remainder on short time. Silk and tape operatives at Cheadle and Tean are well employed.

**Clothing Trades.**—Tailors in the Potteries continue slack, and at Crewe and Stafford employment is quiet. Boot and shoe makers at Stafford and Stone report a decline. Corset-makers at Uttoxeter and Ashbourne are busy.

**Building Trades.**—Employment continues good throughout the district.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Letterpress printers in the Potteries are slack; at Stafford full time is general. Lithographic artists and printers continue busy. Bookbinders and machine-rulers are moderately busy.

**Miscellaneous.**—Stone quarrymen at Alton and Hollington continue busy. Brushmakers are well employed. Basket-makers report a decline. Gas-stokers report an improvement.—*I. S. Harvey.*

**Wolverhampton and District.**

**Iron and Steel Trades.**—In South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire employment is good with steel smelters, and in the angle, hoop, iron bar, and steel trades. It has improved in the sheet trade. The mills and forges in Shropshire are well employed.

**Engineering and allied Trades.**—Employment with engineers, moulders, and boiler, bridge, girder, tank and gasometer makers is good. Cycle makers report an improvement. There is a slight improvement with the malleable iron workers at Walsall. At Coalbrookdale and Madeley employment is good.

**Hardware Trades.**—Employment is good with makers of tubes, nuts and bolts, iron fences, hurdles, wrought-iron work, and builders' ironmongery, and moderate with makers of axles and springs, coach ironwork, malleable nails, protectors, electrical castings and hinges, and edgetools, and with stampers and piercers. It is quiet with brass-workers, galvanisers and makers of spring-traps, keys, latches, plantation hoes, tinplate, tips, and cut nails; slack with locksmiths and makers of black castings, spectacle

frames, and steel toys, and with wrought nail makers at Halesowen. At Old Hill the chain-makers and strikers report employment as good. The hollow-ware workers are working four days per week. At Bilston and the Lye employment in the iron-plate trade has improved. At Cradley Heath the anchor-smiths report a slight improvement. In Dudley and district the anvil and vice makers continue slack.

**Coal Mining.**—On Cannock Chase employment generally is fairly good. The pits in the Old Hill, Oldbury, and Tipton districts are working on the average 5 days per week. In Shropshire employment is good.

**Building Trades.**—Employment is good with plumbers and plasterers, fair with bricklayers and carpenters. Painters are slack.

**Glass Trades.**—The flint glass makers, cutters, bevellers, engravers, and etchers are well employed at Wordsley and district.

**Textile Trades.**—Employment in the carpet trade at Kidderminster has improved. At Bridgnorth it is good. The Tamworth tape mills are running full time.

**Clothing Trades.**—Employment has improved in the readymade and bespoke tailoring departments, but is still quiet. It continues quiet in the boot and shoe trade.—*C. Anthony.*

**Birmingham and District.**

**General.**—Branches of societies with 18,958 members have 286 (or 1.5 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 361 (or 1.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

**Engineering.**—Eight branches of the engineers report employment as moderate, three as good, and two as bad; the tool-makers and machinists as moderate; the smiths and strikers and pattern-makers as good. In West Bromwich and Redditch employment is good; in Coventry moderate. In the cycle centres, Birmingham, Coventry, and Redditch, employment continues quiet.

**Brass and Copper Trades.**—The different branches of the brass trade report employment as good; brass and copper tubeworkers as fair; metal-rollers as quieter; fender-makers and fire brass-workers as improving.

**Jewellers, Silversmiths, and Electro-platers.**—Jewellers return employment as good; electro-platers as moderately good; bevellers and silverers as fair.

**Other Metal Trades.**—Bedstead workers return employment as bad, with half the men on short time; ironfounders as good; gun-workers as bad, with 1,000 men in the trade unemployed; file cutters and ironplate workers as improved. Wrought iron and steel hinge workers, makers of cut nails, tangles, machine rivets, steel toys, machine nuts and bolts, and steel and iron tubes for gas, steam and water, and nail casters, are fully employed. Wire nail makers are busier. Cycle tube makers continue quiet. In Redditch employment in the needle trade continues brisk. Fish-hook makers are busier. Fishing tackle makers are quiet. In West Bromwich employment in the hollow ware, spring, and iron trade is reported as fair.

**Building Trades.**—Employment continues good throughout the district.

**Glass Trade.**—The flint glass makers and flint glass cutters again return employment as good. In West Bromwich some departments are quiet, but employment generally is good.

**Coachbuilding and Woodworking Trades.**—Cabinet-makers return employment as steady; coopers as fair; mill-sawyers and wood-working machinists, and the men in railway and wagon shops as fully employed; coachbuilders as good.

**Clothing Trades.**—Boot and shoe makers return employment as quiet, with many working short time. Tailors report employment as busy.

**Miscellaneous.**—The letterpress printers in Birmingham and West Bromwich return employment as moderate; gasworkers and gas-fitters as good; bakers and confectioners as quiet; saddlers and harness-makers as fair; edge tool and agricultural implement-grinders and makers are only partially employed. In Coventry, employment in the watch trade is reported as fair. In Redditch the fancy casemakers are busy.—*A. R. Jephcott.*

**ENGLAND: EASTERN COUNTIES.****Norfolk and neighbouring District.**

**Clothing Trades.**—Readymade clothing factories at Norwich are on full time. Bespoke tailors are fairly busy at Norwich and Lynn, slack at Cambridge and Yarmouth. Employment in the boot and shoe trade is bad at Norwich, fair at Lynn and Cambridge.

**Building Trades.**—With the exception of painters all branches are well employed throughout the district.

## EMPLOYMENT IN OCTOBER—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—E. AND S.W. COUNTIES; WALES.

**Engineering and Shipbuilding.**—Engineers and boiler-makers are well employed in Norwich, Lynn, Thetford, and Yarmouth. Shipwrights at Yarmouth are not so busy. At Lowestoft shipwrights and boatbuilders are well employed.

**Fishing Industry.**—At Yarmouth the herring fishing has been good; trawling is dull. At Lowestoft the fishing is fairly good. At Lynn the mussel, cockle, and whelk fishing, and the shrimping have not been quite so good.

**Textile Trades.**—Mat and matting weavers at Diss and Lynn are well employed; corset-making is dull at Diss; good at Lynn.

**Printing and Bookbinding Trades.**—Letterpress printers at Norwich report employment as improved; lithographic printers as good; bookbinders as fair.

**Miscellaneous.**—Employment with navvies and general labourers, dock and wharf porters and stevedores is good; paper works, manure works, steam flour and sawing mills, lath-renders, hurdle and gate makers are well employed. The jam factories are not quite so busy; sweet factories are still fully employed. Horticultural builders are busy at Norwich.—*G. Cleverley.*

**Suffolk, Essex, and District.**

**Engineering and Shipbuilding.**—Employment is good throughout the district with engineers, boiler-makers and shipwrights.

**Clothing Trades.**—No improvement is reported in employment in the boot and shoe trade at Ipswich and Colchester. In the wholesale tailoring trade employment is reported as good. Corset-makers at Ipswich and Sudbury are well employed.

**Textile Trades.**—The mat weavers report employment as moderate at Sudbury; good at Hadleigh, Glemsford, and Long Melford. Employment with silkweavers has been slow at Sudbury; fair at Braintree. Silk factory operatives are well employed at Halstead.

**Building Trades.**—Painters in some places report a decline, otherwise employment continues good.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Employment with letterpress printers is good at Ipswich, Bury St. Edmunds, Colchester, and Chelmsford; slow at Beccles. Lithographers and bookbinders continue fairly employed.

**Miscellaneous.**—Employment is good with brickmakers; fair with horticultural builders. Shipping and dock labour at the port of Ipswich is reported as dull.—*R. W. Mather.*

**ENGLAND: SOUTH-WESTERN COUNTIES.****Bristol and District.**

**General.**—Societies with 8,328 members report 112 (or 1.3 per cent.) unemployed, the same number as at the end of September.

**Engineering and allied Trades.**—Employment is reported as good in most branches. Out of 2,957 members 35 (or 1.2 per cent.) are unemployed. The Swindon railway works continue on short time.

**Building Trades.**—Branches with 3,584 members have 62 (or 1.7 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 39 (or 1.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September. The bricklayers, masons, plasterers, and joiners report employment as brisk; the plumbers and painters as dull.

**Coal Mining.**—Employment continues good.

**Textile Trades.**—Employment in Trowbridge is reported as good on some materials, fair on others. At Stroud employment on worsted and serge is reported as fair; on heavy woollens as slack. At Twerton-on-Avon the spinners and millworkers are on full time; the weavers are working five days a week. Cotton operatives in Bristol are busy.

**Clothing Trades.**—Employment in the boot and shoe trade is reported as good at Kingswood and district. In Bristol it remains quiet, but has improved with clickers. The wholesale garment-makers report a slight decline.

**Transport Trades.**—Employment is reported as brisk with carters and railwaymen; as good in Bristol with seafaring men and dock labourers, and as fair at Gloucester and Bridgwater.

**Woodworking Trades.**—The coopers report employment as moderate; the wood cutting machinists and turners as fair; the shop and bar fitters, and horticultural works as good; the lath renders as fair at Bristol and Gloucester, and slack at Bridgwater.

**Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.**—Employment is good with polishers and cabinet-makers; fair with upholsterers.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Employment continues brisk. Out of 753 members 3 only are returned as unemployed.

**Miscellaneous.**—The glass bottle makers report employment as moderate; the brush makers as slack; the chocolate workers as brisk; the brick and tile makers as good.—*J. Curle.*

**Plymouth and South-Western District.**

**Mining, Quarrying, and China Clay Industries.**—More work has been done in the tin mines, but few additional hands have been taken on. In Calstock district work continues dull. Employment is good in granite quarries; fair in limestone and slate quarries; moderate with china clay workers.

**Engineering and Shipbuilding.**—Engineers report employment as moderate in Plymouth and Devonport; good in Cornwall; quiet at Exeter and Newton. Boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders and ironfounders are well employed. Shipwrights are busy, especially in the Government yards. At Brixham and Dartmouth shipbuilding is quiet. Branches with 2,156 members have 14 (or 0.6 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 22 (or 1.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

**Building Trades.**—Stonemasons in Plymouth and Devonport report employment as good; bricklayers as good at Plymouth, but only moderate at Exeter, Tiverton, and Torquay. Carpenters, plasterers, and plumbers are well employed and painters moderately so throughout the district.

**Clothing and Textile Trades.**—Tailors are quiet in the bespoke department. Employment in the readymade branch is only moderate. Boot and shoemakers continue moderately employed. Laceworkers are moderately employed at Tiverton; quiet at Honiton.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Among letterpress printers employment has been good in Plymouth and Devonport; it has improved in Exeter, and is fair in Torquay. Lithographic printers continue moderately employed. Bookbinders are better employed in the stationery department; quiet in letterpress work.

**Dock and Quayside Work.**—Employment generally has been fairly good through the month.

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—Millsawyers and wood-working machinists continue well employed. Cabinetmakers and upholsterers report work as quiet.

**Fishing Industry.**—In the early part of the month the takes generally were light, owing to the weather. During the last two weeks the catches were good. Mackerel fishing is over.

**Miscellaneous.**—Government labourers are fully employed; gasworkers, excavators, and general labourers report employment as fair. Brickmakers are quiet.—*W. Hedge.*

**WALES.****North Wales District.**

**Mining.**—Employment continues good at the collieries throughout North Wales, and at lead and blende mines.

**Quarrying.**—Employment is good at slate, granite sett, lime, road-stone, and freestone quarries.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—The engineers report employment as quiet at Ruabon. It continues moderate at Oswestry. Elsewhere engineers and iron and steel workers are well employed.

**Building Trades.**—The plasterers at Llandudno continue slack. At Wrexham employment with bricklayers and carpenters and joiners is moderate. In other towns, employment generally is fair.

**Brick and Terra cotta Industries.**—Employment at the brick and terra-cotta works is reported as steady.

**Clothing and Textile Industries.**—Employment in the flannel and tweed industry of Montgomeryshire is good on the whole. The bespoke tailors report employment as good at Rhyl, moderate at Bangor, slack at Oswestry, fair at Wrexham.—*G. Rowley.*

**South Wales District.**

**Coal Mining.**—Returns from Blaenavon, Blaina, Cyfarthfa, Dowlais, Ebbw Vale, Tredegar, Rhymney Valley and Western district state that collieries have worked irregularly. In the Rhondda and Aberdare Valleys 61 collieries have averaged just over 5 days a week. Since the resumption of work much dissatisfaction has been shown in respect of the abolition of Mabon's Day, and the colliers at several pits have observed it.

**Iron and Steel Trades.**—Returns from Blaenavon, Ebbw Vale, Dowlais, Cyfarthfa and Tredegar state that mills are worked to their utmost capacity, and, with few exceptions, the furnaces also. The Rogerstone, Briton Ferry, Morriston, Landore, Neath, Llanelly and Cardiff Dowlais Works are also going regularly. The mechanics and general labourers have had a busy month.

**Engineering and Ship Repairing.**—Some yards working short time during the previous months have worked full time during October and greater activity is observable all round. Branches of engineers and ironfounders, with 2,577 members, have 128 (or 5.0 per cent.



## EMPLOYMENT IN OCTOBER—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—WALES AND SCOTLAND.

unemployed, as compared with 126 (or 4.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September. The boilermakers return 40 per cent. as unemployed at Cardiff; 25 per cent. at Newport and 5 per cent. at Swansea; and the shipwrights 80 per cent. The general labourers have had a fair month, and the ship painters and scruffers have been busy.

**Shipping and Dock Labour.**—Employment generally has improved, but coal shipments have not yet attained a normal state. The pitwood and timber workers have had moderate employment. The iron ore and grain workers have been quiet. There has been greater activity in the shipment of crews.

**Building Trades.**—Nearly all branches report employment as moderate. Branches of carpenters and joiners with 1,400 members have 53 (or 3.8 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 34 (or 2.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

**Miscellaneous.**—Fuelworkers have been quiet, except at Swansea. Wagon-builders and lifters have been fairly busy. The lithographic and letterpress printers report employment as quiet.—*T. Davies.*

**Tinplate Trade in South Wales, Monmouthshire, and Gloucestershire.**—The number of mills at work at the end of October was 296, giving employment to 14,945 workpeople, as compared with 286 mills employing 14,664 workpeople at the end of September, and 293 mills employing 15,255 workpeople at the end of October, 1897. Distress is still reported in the Swansea district, but little in other districts. Emigration of tinplate workers has been quieter during the month.

## SCOTLAND.

## Edinburgh and District.

**General.**—Branches of societies with 16,593 members have 200 (or 1.2 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 158 (or 1.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

**Coal Mining.**—Employment in the coal industry continues good. The miners generally are working full time.

**Shale Miners and Oilworkers.**—Returns from 37 pits, employing 3,477 workpeople (as compared with 3,809 in October, 1897) show that 1,985 were employed in pits at which full time was worked during the four weeks ended October 22nd, 501 were at pits working 20 and under 24 days, and 991 at pits working less than 20 days.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—Branches with 2,278 members have 23 (or 1.0 per cent.) idle, as against 39 (or 1.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September. Branches at Falkirk with 3,262 members have 15 (or 0.5 per cent.) idle, as against 18 (or 0.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

**Shipbuilding.**—Branches with 600 members have 22 (or 3.7 per cent.) idle, as against 10 (or 1.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

**Textile Trades.**—Employment in Hawick in the woollen industry has improved with both spinners and weavers; in Galashiels and Selkirk both spinners and weavers are fairly well employed. In the hosiery industry employment is quiet in Selkirk; in Hawick it has improved. The carpet-weavers in Midlothian report employment as good.

**Building Trades.**—Branches with 5,811 members have 32 (or 0.6 per cent.) idle, as against only one member idle at the end of September.

**Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.**—Branches with 1,102 members have 17 (or 1.5 per cent.) idle, as against 15 (or 1.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

**Shipping and Dock Labour.**—The seamen and firemen report employment as good. The coal porters and the dock labourers are well employed.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Branches with 2,325 members have 62 (or 2.7 per cent.) idle, as against 48 (or 2.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

**Miscellaneous.**—The glasscutters, curriers, and settmakers report employment as good; the bakers, glassmakers and saddlers as fair; the tailors and shoemakers as quiet.—*J. Mallinson.*

## Glasgow and West of Scotland.

**Shipbuilding.**—Employment generally is still good. The sail-makers report employment as dull. Branches with 12,105 members return 193 (or 1.6 per cent.) as idle, as against 217 (or 1.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—Employment in Glasgow and the West of Scotland is still good. Branches with 26,857 members return 489 (or 1.8 per cent.) as idle, as against 385 (or 1.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

**Building Trades.**—Employment is still plentiful.

**Mining.**—In Stirlingshire there has been a falling off in employment at several of the collieries owing to scarcity of wagons. The men are working about 5 days per week. In Lanarkshire employment has been far from good, some of the districts only working 3 or 4 days per week, chiefly for want of wagons. In Dumbartonshire men are still working 5 days per week. In Ayrshire employment in coal and ironstone mines continues good. In Renfrewshire employment has been somewhat irregular through want of railway wagons.

**Clothing Trades.**—The tailors, knee-boot and shoe makers, and boot and shoe operatives report an improvement. The clothiers' operatives, slipper-makers and mantle-makers are busy. The tailors' machinists and pressers report employment in the bespoke trade as dull, in the stock trade as fairly good. Tailoresses report employment as good.

**Textile Trades.**—Employment in the carpet trade is improving in Glasgow, good in Paisley, fair in Kilmarnock; cotton weavers and rope workers in Glasgow, and lacemakers in New Mills, Darvel, Galston, and Kilmarnock are well employed; mill workers in Paisley are fully employed. Employment generally is good in Greenock and Kilbirnie.

**Shipping, Dock, and Transport Labour.**—Sailors and firemen report employment as fairly good; dock labourers in Glasgow and Greenock as good. Carters, tramwaymen, and railway men are well employed. Hackney carriage drivers are hardly so busy.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Letterpress printers and bookbinders report employment as dull; lithographic printers, electrotypers and stereotypers as good.

**Glass Trades.**—Flint-glass makers and flint glass cutters report employment as still good; decorative glass workers as improved. Glass bottle makers are well employed.

**Miscellaneous.**—Labourers, basket-makers, scale beam makers, gilders, settmakers, potters, and spindle and flyer makers are busy; paviors are quiet; saddlers, brushmakers, tobacco pipemakers and finishers are fairly busy. Calico engravers are unsteady. Curriers are better employed.—*A. J. Hunter.*

## Dundee and District.

**Textile Trades.**—Employment in the jute industry continues satisfactory on the whole, and the improvement in the linen trade in Fife is still maintained, machinery being well employed.

**Coal Mining.**—Reports from pits employing 10,333 workpeople show an average of 5.5 days per week worked during the four weeks ending October 22nd, the same average as was worked in September.

**Engineering and Shipbuilding.**—Employment in the engineering and shipbuilding industries continues steady. Branches of societies with 2,384 members return 45 (or 1.9 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 22 (or 0.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

**Building and Woodworking Trades.**—Employment generally continues active in the building trades. Branches with 1,404 members return 23 (or 1.6 per cent.) as idle, as compared with 16 (or 1.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September. The dispute in the furniture trades continues.

**Fishing Industry.**—Fishing operations were much interfered with during the month in consequence of a somewhat protracted storm. Before the storm, and since, the takes of haddocks and other white fish were only fair.

**Dock Labour.**—Fair employment has been obtained at the harbour during the month, improving towards the end.

**Miscellaneous.**—Employment in the printing and kindred trades has been fairly good. It is reported as still quiet with the tailors, moderate with the boot and shoe makers, brisk with the floorcloth and linoleum makers.—*P. Reid.*

## Aberdeen and District.

**General.**—Branches with 6,822 members have 56 (or 0.8 per cent.) unemployed, the same percentage of their membership as at the end of September.

**Quarrying.**—Drillers, blockers, labourers, settmakers, granite cutters, and granite polishers report employment as good.

**Building Trades.**—Employment generally is good, although only moderate with plumbers.

**Transport Trades.**—Railway servants, carters, dock and general labourers report employment as good.

**Shipbuilding and Engineering.**—Branches with 1,536 members have 22 (or 1.4 per cent.) idle, as against 17 (or 1.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September. All branches report employment as good.

## EMPLOYMENT IN OCTOBER—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—IRELAND.

**Clothing and Textile Trades.**—Boot and shoemakers report employment as good; tailors as fair; carpet weavers as bad. A new firm has taken on about 600, or one-third, of the flax operatives unemployed through the closing of a large factory, reported in August.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Letterpress and lithographic printers, bookbinders, and machine-rulers report employment as good.

**Fishing.**—At the port of Aberdeen trawler and line boats landed 68,988 cwt. of white fish, with a value of £39,350, an increase in quantity and value as compared with the previous month.

**Miscellaneous.**—Sawmillers, combmakers, and saddlers report employment as good; bakers as fair; upholsterers as dull.—*W. Johnston.*

## IRELAND.

## Dublin and District.

**Building Trades.**—Employment with painters is dull, with other branches fairly good.

**Metal Trades.**—The ironfounders, boilermakers, brass finishers, and gas fitters report employment as good; the smiths as fair; the engineers as moderate; the whitesmiths as dull; the silversmiths as fair. Branches with 771 members have 56 (or 7.3 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 15 (or 1.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—The cart and wagon builders, coachmakers and organ builders report employment as fair; the saddlers as moderate; the upholsterers as dull; one branch of cabinet makers as bad.

**Clothing Trades.**—The tailors and one branch of bootmakers report employment as good; another branch of the latter as dull.

**Printing and allied Trades.**—Work was quiet with the letterpress printers during the month, but improved towards the end. The lithographers were also quiet, and the binders and paper rulers dull. Other trades report work as fair. Branches with 1,414 members have 100 (or 7.1 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 124 (or 8.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

**Miscellaneous.**—The dock labourers report employment as brisk; the Corporation labourers as good; other branches of labourers as fair; bottle makers as good.—*J. P. Nannetti.*

## Belfast and District.

**Shipbuilding, Engineering, and Metal Trades.**—Branches of societies with 7,984 members have 206 (or 2.6 per cent.) out of employment, as against 166 (or 2.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September. The engineers report employment as moderate. Blacksmiths, brassfounders, steam-engine makers, furnishing trades, carpenters and joiners, enginemen, cranimen, and firemen as fair; pattern makers as steady; strikers, boilermakers and ironship-builders, machine workers, hole cutters and drillers, general labourers and platers' helpers, ironmoulders, shipwrights, and tinplate workers as good; spindle and flyer makers as dull.

**Linen Trades.**—Societies with 3,946 members have 98 (or 2.5 per cent.) unemployed, as against 138 (or 3.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September. The flax roughers and power-loom tenters report employment as bad; women workers as dull; beetling enginemen, flax dressers, linen lappers, yarn bundlers, yarn dressers, and yarn beamers as fair; hackle and gill makers as good.

**Building Trades.**—Branches of societies with 2,802 members have 137 (or 4.9 per cent.) unemployed, as against 108 (or 3.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September. All branches return employment as dull.

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—Societies with 909 members have 39 (or 4.3 per cent.) unemployed, as against 44 (or 5.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September. The upholsterers and coach builders report employment as bad; the packing-case makers and mill sawyers as slack; the coopers as improving; the cabinet makers and French polishers as fair.

**Printing and allied Trades.**—Societies with 922 members have 57 (or 6.2 per cent.) unemployed, as against 67 (or 7.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September. The bookbinders and machine rulers report employment as bad; the letterpress printers as dull; the lithographic printers and artists as good.

**Clothing Trades.**—Employment continues quiet with both boot and shoe operatives and tailors.

**Miscellaneous.**—Branches with 1,810 members have 55 (or 3.0 per cent.) out of employment, as against 48 (or 2.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September. The bakers, butchers, carters, and municipal employees report employment as fair; the railway servants as busy; and the locomotive engine-drivers, and paviors as good.—*R. Sheldon.*

## Cork and District.

**Shipbuilding and Engineering.**—Boilermakers and iron shipbuilders report employment as good in Cork, Passage West, and Haulbowline, and as dull in Limerick and Waterford; the engine-fitters in Cork as dull; other branches of the engineering trade as fair.

**Clothing Trades.**—Boot and shoe operatives and tailors report employment as dull.

**Building Trades.**—Employment is fairly good throughout the district.

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—Mill sawyers and coach makers report employment as good in Cork and Limerick, fair in Waterford, Tralee, and Killarney; cabinet makers and coopers as dull.

**Miscellaneous.**—Printers and kindred trades report employment as fair; coal porters and quay labourers, engine men, firemen and railway servants as good; tramway employees, gas workers, and hackney coach drivers as fair; bakers as dull.—*P. O'Shea.*

## WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION SCHEMES.

The following table gives details of the Workmen's Compensation schemes approved by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies during the period October 12th to November 11th. This brings the number of such schemes now approved to 53.

Title of Scheme.	Nature of Employment.	Situation of Works.	No. of Work-people affected
Tirpenty "Black-vein" Steam Coal and Coke Co., Ltd.	Coal Mining	Tirpenty, near Pontypool ...	696
Aberdare Works and Collieries Company	Ditto	Aberdare, Glamorganshire ...	Not stated.
Andrew Knowles and Sons, Ltd., Accident Society	Ditto	Pendlebury Colliery, Pendleton Colliery, Agecroft Colliery, and Clifton Hall Colliery, all near Manchester; and at Fogg's Colliery, Little Lever, near Bolton.	1,229

Of the 53 schemes now approved, 37 relate to the coal mining industry. In the case of 41 schemes, for which the numbers of workpeople affected are given, the total number of workpeople is 68,730. These figures are grouped by trades in the following table:—

Trades.	Number of Schemes.		Number of workpeople affected.
	Total number passed up to Nov. 11th.	Total for which the number of workpeople is returned.	
Railway Service...	2	2	34,933
Coal Mining ...	37	29	21,992
Gas Manufacture ...	1	1	3,815
Metal Trades ...	7	4	3,507
Miscellaneous Trades ...	6	5	4,483
Total ...	53	41	68,730

## DECREASES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN OCTOBER, 1898.

The changes reported in October affected 1,276 persons, whose recognised working time was reduced, on the average, 3.47 hours per week. The decreases were all brought about without cessation of work.

Locality.	Occupation.	Date from which change takes effect.	Approximate number of work-people directly affected.	Hours of labour in a full week (exclusive of overtime).		
				Before change*	After change*	Extent of decrease per week.
Bournville, near Birmingham	Cocoa and Chocolate Workers	24 Oct.	450	53.50	48	5.50
Stafford	Engineers, Machinemen, Labourers, Female employees (in engineering works)	6 Oct.	440	53	50	3
London (Sydenham)	Yard Labourers and Mechanics (in gas works)	13 Oct.	351	54	52.50	1.50
Wimbledon...	Employees of District Council †	19 Oct.	3	—	—	1.00
Belfast ...	Bill Posters †	1 Oct.	16	57	54	3

\* Where the winter and summer hours are known to differ in any trade the weekly hours given in the table are the result of averaging the hours for five summer weeks and two winter weeks.

† See also under Changes in Rates of Wages.



CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN OCTOBER, 1898.

(Based on information obtained from all available sources, verified and corrected by direct application to the Employers, Trade Unions and other parties concerned.)

Summary.—The changes in wages reported during October affected about 141,000 workpeople, and the net effect of all the changes on the weekly wages of those workpeople was an increase of about 8½d. per head.

Increases.—The principal increases were the advances of 2½ per cent. to 90,000 coal miners in Durham, and to 10,000 surface-workers at coal mines in Yorkshire, an extra 2½ per cent. to 6,000 coal miners at Staveley, and two advances amounting to 3½ per cent. to 6,000 ironstone miners in the Cleveland district.

Methods of Arrangement.—Changes affecting about 1,600 workpeople were preceded by disputes. A change affecting about 1,800 workpeople was arranged by a conciliation board, and these, involving about 3,500 workpeople were effected under sliding scales.

Totals for First Ten Months of 1898.—For the ten months, January to October, the number of workpeople (separate individuals) reported as having received advances or sustained decreases is about 910,000, compared with 570,000 for the corresponding period of 1897.

NOTE.—It will be understood that increments accruing under scales of pay, as in the case of policemen, some municipal employees, and many railway servants, &c., are not recorded here.

Main table on the left page showing changes in wages for various occupations like Building Trades, Mining and Quarrying, Steel Manufacture, etc. Columns include Locality, Occupation, Date from which change takes effect, Approximate Number of workpeople affected, Particulars of Change, and Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week.

\* Exclusive of overtime. † Where the winter and summer hours are known to differ in any trade, the weekly rate given in the table is the result of averaging the wages for five summer weeks and two winter weeks.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN OCTOBER—(continued).

Main table on the right page showing changes in wages for various occupations like Engineering and Shipbuilding, Other Metal Trades, Textile Trades, Transport Trade, and Miscellaneous Trades. Columns include Locality, Occupation, Date from which change takes effect, Approximate Number of workpeople affected, Particulars of Change, and Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week.

\* Exclusive of overtime. † New work. ‡ Old work. § A change in the wages of gas workers at Becton, which occurred during October, is held over till next issue for a more detailed statement.



INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN OCTOBER.

(Based on information furnished by the Home Office and the Board of Trade.)

THE total number of workpeople reported as killed by accidents during October was 326, or 38 more than in September, and 54 more than in October, 1897.

In the first group of industries shown in the following summary table, including railways, mines, quarries, shipping, and factories, and employing 5,294,393 persons (according to the latest available figures), 311 persons were killed, and 6,913 reported injured by accidents in October, as compared with 259 killed and 4,872 reported injured in October, 1897. These figures give one death in October for every 17,024 persons employed in those industries.

During the ten completed months of 1898, 2,908 persons were reported killed, and 56,219 injured, as against 3,250 reported killed and 48,021 injured in the corresponding period of 1897.

In the remaining occupations included in the tables 15 persons were reported killed, and 934 injured, last month, as compared with 13 reported killed and 555 injured in October of last year.

SUMMARY TABLE.

Table with columns: Industry, Killed (Oct. 1898, Oct. 1897), Injured (Oct. 1898, Oct. 1897), Number Employed according to latest Returns. Rows include Railway Service, Mines, Quarries, Shipping, Factories, Workshops, and Under Factory Act, 1895, and Under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894.

DETAILED TABLE.

Table with columns: Industry, Killed, Injured, Total. Rows include Railway Service (Brakemen and Goods, Guards, Engine Drivers, Firemen, etc.), Factories, Workshops, and Under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894.

Table with columns: Industry, Underground, Surface, Total. Rows include Mines (Explosions of Firedamp, Falls of ground, In shafts, etc.) and Quarries over 20 feet deep.

Table with columns: Industry, Inside, Outside, Total. Rows include Explosives or Blasting, Falls of ground, During Ascent or Descent, etc.

Table with columns: Shipping (On Trading Vessels, On Fishing Vessels), Total for October, 1898, Total for 3 months Aug., 1898, to October, 1898, Total for 3 months Aug., 1897, to October, 1897. Sub-columns: Killed, Injured, Total.

Table with columns: Factories (Accidents reportable by Certifying Surgeons, Other Accidents), Workshops, Total Factories, Total Workshops. Sub-columns: Males, Females, Total.

Table with columns: Factories & Workshops (classified by trades), Total for October, 1898, Total for October, 1897. Sub-columns: Males, Females, Total.

Table with columns: Under Factory Act, 1895, Under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894. Sub-columns: Construction or repair, Use or Working, Total.

Table with columns: Under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894. Sub-columns: Construction or repair, Use or Working, Total.

\* The figures relate to seamen who have been reported during the month to have been killed or injured by accidents at sea, or in rivers and harbours, whilst they were members of the crews of sea-going vessels (except yachts) registered in the British Islands under Part I. of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894 (this includes all trading vessels and about a half, say 3,000, of the fishing vessels, of 15 tons and upwards). Injuries to members of the crews of fishing vessels employed in and out of Scottish ports and of vessels trading exclusively between Scottish ports, or to Asiatics serving under Asiatic articles of agreement, are not included. With these exceptions injuries, however trivial, are included. The number of persons stated to be employed is the sum of the number of persons engaged for the first crew of each vessel employed during 1896, and remaining on the Register at the end of that year.

LABOUR BUREAUX IN OCTOBER.

DURING October the 13 bureaux furnishing returns, registered 2,716 fresh applications for work, as compared with 2,527 in October, 1897, an increase of 189. Work was found for 1,276 persons by these bureaux during the month, compared with 1,043 in October, 1897. The number remaining on the registers of the 13 bureaux at the end of October, 1898, was 2,723 (including 1,312 men, lads and boys, and 1,411 women and girls) compared with 2,791 (including 1,458 men, lads and boys, and 1,333 women and girls) a year ago.

(I.) WORK DONE IN OCTOBER.

Table with columns: Name and Address of Labour Bureau, No. of Fresh Applications, No. of Situations offered, No. of Workpeople found Worked by Bureaux. Rows include London (St. Pancras, Battersea, Islington, etc.), Provincial (Salford, Ipswich, Plymouth, etc.), and Total of 13 bureaux.

(II.) OCCUPATIONS OF WORKPEOPLE ON REGISTERS AT END OF OCTOBER.

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, Men (Building, Carmen, Clerks, Porters, General Labourers, Other Occupations), Total Men. Rows include London (St. Pancras, Battersea, Islington, etc.), Provincial (Salford, Ipswich, Plymouth, etc.), and Total Number.

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, Women and Girls (Lads and Boys, Char-women, Servants, Dress-makers, Others, Total Women and Girls), Grand Total. Rows include London (St. Pancras, Battersea, Islington, etc.), Provincial (Salford, Ipswich, Plymouth, etc.), and Total Number.

\* Permanent employment. † Temporary employment. ‡ These were engaged by Salvation Army authorities. § Women and Girls are not registered.

PAUPERISM IN OCTOBER.

Data supplied by the Local Government Boards in England, Scotland, and Ireland.

THE number of persons relieved in the 35 selected urban districts of the United Kingdom on one day in the second week of October was 323,559. This number corresponds to a rate of 204 per 10,000 of the estimated population of these districts in 1898.

Compared with September, 1898, a decrease is shown of 255 in the number relieved, the rate per 10,000 remaining about the same. In 11 districts increases are shown, the principal increases being in the Paisley and Greenock district (8 per 10,000), and Central London and Wolverhampton districts (6 each). In 20 districts decreases are shown, the largest occurring in Galway (14 per 10,000), North Staffordshire and Leicester districts (10 each), Bristol (8), and Stockton and Tees and Cork, Waterford and Limerick districts (6 each).

Compared with October, 1897, there is an increase of 1,039 in the number relieved, but a decrease of 2 in the rate per 10,000 of population. There are decreases in 17 districts, the largest decreases being in the Bristol district (25 per 10,000), Coatbridge and Airdrie (24), Bolton, Oldham, &c. (18), and Hull (16). The remaining 17 districts show increases, the principal increases being in the Leicester, and Cardiff and Swansea districts (17 each), Dublin (16), and West Ham, and Belfast (14).

Table with columns: Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of October, 1898 (In-door, Out-door, Total), Rate per 10,000 of estimated Population, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of population as compared with Month ago, A year ago. Rows include ENGLAND & WALES\* (Metropolises, Other Districts) and SCOTLAND\*.

Table with columns: Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of October, 1898 (In-door, Out-door, Total), Rate per 10,000 of estimated Population, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of population as compared with Month ago, A year ago. Rows include IRELAND† (Dublin, Belfast, Cork, etc.) and Total for the above Irish Districts.

Table with columns: Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of October, 1898 (In-door, Out-door, Total), Rate per 10,000 of estimated Population, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of population as compared with Month ago, A year ago. Rows include SCOTLAND\* (Glasgow, Paisley & Greenock, etc.) and Total for the above Scottish Districts.

\* Exclusive of Vagrants; of Patients in the Fever and Small Pox Hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Boards; and of Lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals and Licensed Houses. † Excluding Casuals, but including persons maintained in Institutions for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb, &c., who are classified as not able-bodied.



TRADE DISPUTES.

(Based on information, obtained from all available sources, verified and corrected by direct application to the Employers, Trade Unions, and other parties concerned.) Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day have been omitted, except when the aggregate duration exceeded 100 working days.

Trade Disputes.—Fifty-four fresh disputes were reported as beginning in October, 1898, compared with 52 in September, and 39 in October, 1897. In these 54 disputes, 6,804 workpeople were directly, and 5,773 indirectly affected, a total of 12,577, which compares with 7,644 in September, and 8,707 in October, 1897.

Trades Affected.—In the building trades 8 disputes took place, involving 164 workpeople; mining and quarrying, 12 disputes, involving 8,952 workpeople; iron and steel manufacture, 5 disputes, involving 466 workpeople; engineering, and shipbuilding, 12 disputes, involving 1,331 workpeople; other metal trades, 4 disputes, involving 534 workpeople; textile trades, 3 disputes, involving 429 workpeople; transport trades, 2 disputes, involving 472 workpeople; and in other industries, 8 disputes, involving 229 workpeople.

Causes.—Of the 54 new disputes, 33 were chiefly on wages questions, 5 on matters connected with working arrangements, 3 on questions of trade unionism, 6 with regard to the employment of particular persons, and the remaining 7 arose from various causes.

Results.—Thirty-eight new disputes, involving 11,383 workpeople, and 17 old disputes, involving 2,966 workpeople, were reported as settled. In the 55 new and old disputes terminated, 18, involving 7,830 persons, were settled wholly in favour of the workpeople; 16, involving 2,515 persons, wholly in favour of the employers; and 21, involving 4,004 persons, resulted in a compromise. At the end of October 17 old disputes were known to be still unsettled, involving altogether about 3,800 workpeople.

Duration of Disputes in Working Days.—No dispute of any great magnitude was in progress in October, and the total duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, was only 202,500 working days, compared with 189,000 in the preceding month of September, and 1,530,000 in October, 1897.

Total Disputes for First Ten Months of 1898.—For the ten completed months of 1898 the aggregate number of workpeople involved in the 561 disputes which commenced in those months was 238,133, as compared with 201,638, in the 839 disputes reported in the corresponding period of 1897. The total aggregate duration in working days was about 15,040,000, as compared with about 7,421,000 for the same period of 1897. The recent coal mining dispute in South Wales largely accounts for the greater duration of disputes in the first ten months of 1898 as compared with 1897.

Table with 6 columns: Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople Affected (Directly, Indirectly), Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN OCTOBER, 1898.

Table for Building Trades (164 Workpeople affected). Columns include Locality, Occupation, Disputes, Date, Duration, Cause, and Result.

Mining and Quarrying. 8,952 Workpeople affected.

Table for Mining and Quarrying. Columns include Locality, Occupation, Disputes, Date, Duration, Cause, and Result.

Iron and Steel Manufacture. 466 Workpeople affected.

Table for Iron and Steel Manufacture. Columns include Locality, Occupation, Disputes, Date, Duration, Cause, and Result.

\* The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly affected," i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments affected by dispute, but not themselves on strike. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.

TRADE DISPUTES—(continued).

Table with 6 columns: Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople Affected (Directly, Indirectly), Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN OCTOBER, 1898—continued.

Table for Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades (1,331 Workpeople affected). Columns include Locality, Occupation, Disputes, Date, Duration, Cause, and Result.

Table for Other Metal Trades (534 Workpeople affected). Columns include Locality, Occupation, Disputes, Date, Duration, Cause, and Result.

Table for Textile Trades (429 Workpeople affected). Columns include Locality, Occupation, Disputes, Date, Duration, Cause, and Result.

Table for Transport Trades (472 Workpeople affected). Columns include Locality, Occupation, Disputes, Date, Duration, Cause, and Result.

Table for Miscellaneous Trades (229 Workpeople affected). Columns include Locality, Occupation, Disputes, Date, Duration, Cause, and Result.

II.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN BEFORE OCTOBER, 1898, AND WERE SETTLED IN THAT MONTH.

Table for Mining and Quarrying. Columns include Locality, Occupation, Disputes, Date, Duration, Cause, and Result.

Table for Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades. Columns include Locality, Occupation, Disputes, Date, Duration, Cause, and Result.

\* The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly affected," i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments affected by dispute, but not themselves on strike. The statements of cause and result do not apply to those persons.



TRADE DISPUTES—(continued.)

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople affected (Directly, Indirectly), Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result. Includes sections for Textile Trades and Miscellaneous Trades.

II.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN BEFORE OCTOBER, 1898, AND WERE SETTLED IN THAT MONTH—(continued.)

TEXTILE TRADES.

Table of textile trade disputes with columns for Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADES.

Table of miscellaneous trade disputes with columns for Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

III.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN BEFORE OCTOBER, 1898, AND WERE STILL UNSETTLED AT THE END OF THAT MONTH.

The following 17 disputes which have been previously reported, were still unsettled at the end of October. The number of workpeople then involved was about 3,800. The month in which each dispute commenced is stated in brackets. Building Trades—Bricklayers, Hereford (April) since settled—(Nov.); bricklayers, Chelmsford (May); plumbers, Warrington (June). Mining—Coal miners, Castleford (July, 1897); Normanton (Sep., 1897); coal miners, Pontefract (April, 1898); coal miners, Sherburn (July); coal miners, Burnley (Sep.)—2 disputes. Other Trades—Boilermakers, Ebbw Vale (July, 1897); cabinet-makers, Glasgow, Beith, Dundee, and Dalry (March, 1898); boot and shoe makers, Newcastle (June); twisters and drawers, Cloughfold (July); fustian weavers, Bury (August); tailors, Limerick (May); dyers, Honley (Sept.); fancy leather workers, Manchester (July).

\* The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly affected," i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments affected by dispute, but not themselves on strike. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

The following table shows the number of cases of Lead poisoning and Anthrax reported as having occurred in factories and workshops during October, classified by industries. It will be seen that of the 121 cases of lead poisoning reported, 41 were at lead works, and 28 in the china and earthenware industry, 15 out of these 28 cases being amongst female operatives.

Table showing diseases of occupations by industry and gender (M, F), categorized by Adults, Young Persons, Children, and Total. Includes categories like Lead Poisoning, Phosphorus Poisoning, and Anthrax.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES.

Cotton Statistics.—The imports of raw cotton during October show an increase as compared with both October, 1897, and October, 1896. The imports for the ten months ended October are considerably greater than for the corresponding periods of both 1897 and 1896.

The following are the figures for the different periods:—

Table of cotton statistics showing Imports, Bales, Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns, Bales, and Exports, Bales, for October 1898, 1897, and 1896, and Ten Months ended.

Traffic Receipts.—The total receipts of 21 of the principal railways of the United Kingdom during the five weeks ended November 6th amounted to £8,144,353, an increase of £247,639 (or 3.1 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period of 1897. The receipts from passenger traffic were £3,303,698, an increase of £118,578, and those from goods and mineral traffic £4,840,655, an increase of £129,061.

Fishery Statistics.—The total value of the fish (including shell fish) landed on the coasts of the United Kingdom during October amounted to £705,842, an increase of £1,555, as compared with October, 1897. In England and Wales there was an increase of £15,954, and in Scotland and Ireland decreases of £6,504 and £7,895 respectively.

Bankruptcies.—The bankruptcies gazetted during October numbered 348, being 27 less than in October, 1897, 25 less than in October, 1896, and 37 less than in October, 1895.

RAILWAY SERVANTS IN INDIA: NUMBERS EMPLOYED AND ACCIDENTS.

FROM THE ADMINISTRATION REPORT ON THE RAILWAYS IN INDIA FOR 1897-8, BY MR. A. BRERETON, DIRECTOR OF RAILWAY TRAFFIC AND STATISTICS (C.—8921), IT APPEARS THAT THE NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN 1897 ON THE STANDARD AND METRE GAUGE RAILWAYS OPEN TO TRAFFIC WAS 296,495. OF THESE 4,793 WERE EUROPEANS, 6,902 WERE EAST INDIANS, AND 284,800 WERE NATIVES. COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS YEAR THE NUMBER OF EUROPEANS EMPLOYED INCREASED BY 274 PER CENT., EAST INDIANS BY 3.08 PER CENT., AND NATIVES BY 4.81 PER CENT. DURING THE YEAR 230 RAILWAY SERVANTS WERE KILLED AND 368 INJURED BY ACCIDENTS; 79 PASSENGERS WERE KILLED AND 338 INJURED; AND 730 OTHER PERSONS WERE KILLED, OF WHOM 520 WERE TRESPASSERS AND 169 WERE SUICIDES.

CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF MEDIATION AND ARBITRATION OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK DEALS WITH THE YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 31ST, 1897. DURING THE YEAR THERE WERE 243 STRIKES OF WHICH THE BOARD HAD DEFINITE KNOWLEDGE, OF WHICH ABOUT 100 WERE OF SHORT DURATION, LASTING NOT MORE THAN A FEW DAYS. THE REPORT GIVES AN ACCOUNT OF THE MOST IMPORTANT OF THESE DISPUTES, AND OF THE ACTION OF THE BOARD, IN ANY CASES IN WHICH SUCH ACTION WAS TAKEN.

IN AN APPENDIX TO THE REPORT THE TEXT IS GIVEN OF THE LAWS, OR SECTIONS OF LAWS, DEALING WITH CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION IN LABOUR DISPUTES IN THE VARIOUS STATES OF THE UNION.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT HAS BEEN COMMUNICATED TO THE LABOUR GAZETTE BY THE COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE:—

The trade returns for the month of October, 1898, show a decrease, as compared with the corresponding month of 1897, in the value of the imports from foreign countries and British possessions, but in the exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures, and in the exports of foreign and colonial merchandise, there is an increase.

The imports for October, 1898, were valued at £38,601,673, showing a decrease of £443,090, as compared with October, 1897, or 1.1 per cent. The exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures amounted in value to £19,863,019, an increase of £579,967, or 3 per cent., and the exports of foreign and colonial merchandise were valued at £5,099,583, showing an increase of £493,904, or 10.7 per cent., as compared with October, 1897.

Imports.—The following table shows the value of the imports for October, 1898, as compared with October, 1897, according to the different categories of merchandise:—

Table comparing imports for October 1897 and 1898 across various categories like Food, Drink and Tobacco, Metals, Chemicals, Dyestuffs, and Tanning Substances, etc.

With regard to the imports of articles of food, etc., wheat shows a decrease in quantity in October, 1898, as compared with October, 1897, of 530,300 cwt., and in value of £622,487; Indian corn or maize has decreased 947,480 cwt., and £148,389, while peas and beans also show diminished quantities and values. On the other hand increases are shown in the following articles:—Wheat meal and flour, barley, oats, oatmeal, and Indian corn meal. In the case of wheat meal and flour the quantity has increased by 451,140 cwt., and the value by £155,473, in barley by 1,302,710 cwt., and £405,908, and in oats by 218,990 cwt., and £70,576. Amongst other articles of food and drink, the imports of bacon, butter, hams, pork, fruit and rice have increased, while the most notable decrease is found in the case of sugar, refined and candy, the imports of which were valued at £202,537 less than in October, 1897. Tea has increased in quantity to the extent of 4,153,358 pounds, and in value to the extent of £135,317.

In the class of raw materials, cotton raw has decreased £716,907, jute £60,540, flax £42,926, and sheep or lamb's wool £120,659, but hemp has increased £122,710. The imports of caoutchouc show an increase of £137,797, and of tallow and stearine £137,654. Amongst manufactured articles there is a decrease of £105,463 in silk manufactures, and in woollen manufactures of £199,207. Manufactures of iron and steel show an increase.

Exports.—As regards the exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures for the month, the following table shows the values for October, 1897, and October, 1898, and the increase or decrease in each principal category:—

Table comparing exports for October 1897 and 1898 across various categories like Animals living, Articles of Food and Drink, Raw Materials, Articles Manufactured and Partly Manufactured, etc.

Amongst articles of food, etc., there is a decrease in beer and ale to the extent of £21,977; in fish other than herrings, to the extent of £16,241, and in provisions including meat, £15,828; but there is an increase in the exports of herrings amounting to £55,238. In the class of raw materials, coal, coke, and fuel show an increase of 75,251 tons in the quantity, and

of £238,542 in the value exported. Machinery has increased by £504,323, of which sum £208,726 represents the increase in textile machinery, and £153,930 in the value of steam engines exported. On the other hand, iron, wrought and unwrought, has decreased by £324,365. Amongst yarns and textile fabrics, cotton, jute, linen, woollen, worsted, alpaca and mohair yarns show decreases, but all piece goods have increased, in the case of cottons by over 56 million yards in the quantity, and by £430,386 in the value exported.

Taking the ten completed months of the year the total value of the imports from foreign countries and British possessions amounted to £383,311,220, as compared with £368,681,466 in the first ten months of 1897, an increase of £14,629,754; and the exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures amounted to £192,592,177, as against £195,274,228 in the corresponding period of 1897. A noticeable feature in the case of these exports is the decline in the value of the shipments of woollen and worsted tissues to the United States, which for the first ten months of 1898 amounted to only £904,588, as compared with £3,191,111 for a similar period of 1897. The exports of foreign and colonial merchandise during the ten months reached a total of £50,553,983 in 1898, and £50,615,673 in 1897.

Tonnage of Vessels Entered and Cleared.—The tonnage of vessels entered at ports of the United Kingdom from foreign countries and British Possessions during October amounted to 3,085,090 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 3,514,263 tons, as compared with 2,964,371 tons entered, and 3,412,429 tons cleared in October, 1897. Of vessels entered coastwise, the tonnage entered during October was 2,620,940 tons, and the tonnage cleared 2,545,796 tons, as against 2,801,120 tons, and 2,710,967 tons respectively in October, 1897.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Total Emigration.—The number of passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during October was 22,499, as compared with 23,759 in October, 1897.

British and Irish.—Of the 22,499 passengers, 15,823 were of British or Irish origin, a decrease of 586 as compared with a year ago. There was a marked falling off in the numbers bound for Australasia and South Africa, while the number of those en route for the United States shows an increase. The total number of British and Irish passengers for the first ten months of the year shows a decrease of 6,946 when compared with the corresponding period of 1897. The figures for the different periods are given in the following table:—

Table of emigration and immigration statistics showing Destination, October 1898, October 1897, and Total for ten months ending October 1898 and 1897.

Foreign.—The remainder of the 22,499 passengers, viz., 6,676, were foreigners, or persons whose nationality was not distinguished, being 674 less than in October, 1897.

Alien Immigration.—The number of aliens that arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent during October was 7,415. Of these, 2,821 were stated to be en route to America or other places out of the United Kingdom, compared with 2,828 so stated in October, 1897. Those not stated to be on their way to America or other places out of the United Kingdom numbered 4,594 (including 1,094 sailors), the corresponding figure for October, 1897, being 3,570 (including 911 sailors). The figures for October, 1898, and 1897, and also for the ten months ended October 31st in each year, are as follows:—

Table of alien immigration statistics showing Destination, October 1898, October 1897, and Total for ten months ending October 1898 and 1897.

\* These figures are inclusive of sailors, to the number of 1,094 in October, 1898; 911 in October, 1897; and 10,343 and 9,107 respectively in the ten months ended October 31st in each year.



INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS IN OCTOBER.

I.—Under Factory and Workshop Acts.\*†

Nature of Offence.	Cases taken.	Con- victions	Amount of Penalties.	Amount of Costs.
<b>By Owners, Managers, &amp;c. :-</b>				
Neglecting to Limewash ... ..	9	9	10 11 3	3 11 9
Neglecting to Fence Machinery ... ..	11	11	19 5 0	4 9 4
Employing Young Persons without necessary Certificates ... ..	41	40	19 3 0	18 12 9
Employing Children under the legal age ... ..	2	2	1 5 0	0 12 6
<b>Illegal Hours or Times of Employment—</b>				
Before or after the legal hour ... ..	86	83	41 1 6	35 19 6
During meal times, or without proper intervals for meals ... ..	29	28	10 9 0	13 15 6
Beyond legal hour on Saturday or day substituted ... ..	26	25	12 17 6	11 6 9
Other ... ..	22	21	14 15 0	6 12 0
<b>Neglecting Rules as to Registers, Abstracts, Notices, &amp;c.—</b>				
Not keeping Registers ... ..	40	40	23 6 6	17 7 7
Not affixing or properly filling up Notices and Abstracts ... ..	6	6	2 7 6	2 0 9
Not sending Notices required by Act ... ..	11	10	9 13 9	4 8 1
Not supplying sufficient or correct particulars Prosecutions for Breach of (or not affixing) Special Rules ... ..	7	7	7 0 0	5 3 6
Prosecutions under Truck Acts... ..	13	4	6 5 0	1 1 6
<b>By Workmen :-</b>				
Prosecutions for Breach of Special Rules ... ..	3	3	0 7 6	1 1 0
Employing Children full time, &c. ... ..	1	1	0 10 0	0 14 0
<b>By Parents :-</b>				
Making use of false certificate ... ..	1	—	—	—
<b>Total for October, 1898 ... ..</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>178 17 6</b>	<b>127 0 6</b>
<b>Total for October, 1897 ... ..</b>	<b>197†</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>112 16 6</b>	<b>85 17 4</b>

II.—Under Mines and Quarries Acts.\*†

Nature of Offence.	Prose- cutions.	Con- victions.	Cases with- drawn.	Cases dis- missed.	Amount of Fines and Costs.
UNDER THE MINES ACTS.					
<b>By Owners, Managers, &amp;c. :-</b>					
Ventilation ... ..	1	1	—	—	10 0 0
Miscellaneous ... ..	1	1	—	—	0 15 0
<b>By Workmen :-</b>					
Shot-firing and Explosives ... ..	4	4	—	—	4 13 0
Timbering ... ..	8	8	—	—	9 7 6
Lucifer Matches, Smoking, &c. ... ..	8	8	—	—	9 1 0
Riding on Trams ... ..	10	10§	—	—	10 2 0
Miscellaneous ... ..	13	13	—	—	13 11 3
<b>Total for October, 1898 ... ..</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>87 9 9</b>
<b>Total for October, 1897 ... ..</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>63 0 10</b>
UNDER THE QUARRIES ACT.					
<b>By Owners, Managers, &amp;c. :-</b>					
Fencing ... ..	1	1	—	—	0 19 6
Other Special Rules ... ..	2	2	—	—	2 9 0
<b>Total for October, 1898 ... ..</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>3 8 6</b>
<b>Total for October, 1897 ... ..</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

III.—Under Merchant Shipping Acts.

(Supplied by the Solicitor's Department, Board of Trade.)

Nature of Offence.	Prose- cutions.	Con- victions.	Total Penalties.	Total Costs.
<b>By Owners or Masters of Ships :-</b>				
Infringement of the Collision Regu- lations by wilful default ... ..	1	1	£ s. d. 3 0 0	£ s. d. 2 18 6
<b>By Boarding House Keepers and others :-</b>				
Illegal Boarding Supply ... ..	1	1	2 0 0	1 17 6
Unlawfully demanding or receiving remuneration for obtaining em- ployment ... ..	1	1	2 0 0	1 12 6
<b>Total for October, 1898 ... ..</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7 0 0</b>	<b>6 8 6</b>
<b>Total for October, 1897 ... ..</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>29 0 0</b>	<b>35 15 2</b>

IV.—Under the Friendly Societies and Industrial and Provident Societies Acts.

(Supplied by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.)

Nature of Offence.	Prose- cutions.	Withdrawn on compliance with Act.	Con- victions.	Fines and Costs.
Failure to send Annual Returns ... ..	6	3	3	£ s. d. 5 17 0
For failure to send notice of removal of registered offices ... ..	1	1	1	0 15 0
<b>Total for October, 1898 ... ..</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6 12 0</b>

\* Supplied by the Home Office.

† The figures relating to Prosecutions under the Mines and Quarries Acts for October, 1898, include prosecutions by H.M. Inspectors of Mines under the Factory and Workshop Acts in factories and workshops connected with Metalliferous Mines and Quarries. In the figures for October, 1897, given in the above tables, such prosecutions are included in the Table of Prosecutions under the Factory and Workshop Acts. The difference owing to the change of tabulation is not, however, very material.

‡ In this case the number of convictions is greater than the number of informations laid, the practice being in Scotland to lay one information against one person, however many offences he is charged with.

Three of these convictions were for riding on Engine Set.

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN OCTOBER.

(Supplied to the Department by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.)

FROM the following summary of the changes in the Register of Industrial Organisations in October it will be seen that 3 Trade Unions, 3 Co-operative Association for Distribution, 4 Co-operative Associations for Production, 3 Miscellaneous Industrial and Provident Societies, 26 new Friendly Societies, and 29 branches of existing Friendly Societies have been added to the Register for the United Kingdom during October. Two Trade Unions, 4 Industrial and Provident Societies, 20 Building Societies, and 34 Friendly Societies (including 13 branches) are reported as having ceased to exist, or to have commenced "winding-up," while 1 Trade Union is reported to have amalgamated with another Union.

ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED.

**Trade Unions.—England and Wales.**—Combined Smiths of Great Britain and Ireland, 21, Eastern-road, Plaistow, E.; Keighley and District Builders' Labourers' Protective, Accident, and Burial Soc., Ship Inn, High-street, Keighley; Loughborough and District Builders' Labourers' Protective, Accident, and Burial Soc., Golden Fleece Inn, Cattle Market, Loughborough. **Scotland.**—None. **Ireland.**—None.

**Industrial and Provident Societies.—(A) Associations for Distribution.—England and Wales.**—South Hetton Amicable Ind. Soc., Ltd., South Hetton. **Scotland.**—None. **Ireland.**—Pullathomas Co-op. Home Industries Soc., Ltd., Pullathomas co., Mayo; Irish Needlework Depot, Ltd., 33, Dawson-street, Dublin.

**(B) Associations for Production.—England and Wales.**—None. **Scotland.**—None. **Ireland.**—Geesala Co-op. Agricultural and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Geesala, co. Mayo; Kilsonan Co-op. Agricultural and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Kilsonan, co. Galway; the Mullet Co-op. Agricultural and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Kilmore, Erris, co. Mayo; Kells Co-op. Agricultural and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Kells, co. Kilkenny.

**(C) Miscellaneous.—England and Wales.**—Licensed Trade Supply Soc., Ltd., 53, Vine-street, Coventry; Ponder's End Progressive Club and Institute Soc., Ltd., Alma-road, Ponder's End; New Brancpeth Club, Ltd., Club House, New Brancpeth Colliery, Durham. **Scotland.**—None. **Ireland.**—None.

**Friendly Societies.—(A) New Friendly Societies.—England and Wales.** Ordinary Friendly, 12; Dividing, 6; Juvenile, 1; Specially authorised, 2; Working Men's Clubs, 3. **Scotland.**—None. **Ireland.**—Specially authorised, 2. **(B) New Branches of Existing Societies.—England and Wales.**—18. **Scotland.**—10. **Ireland.**—1.

**Building Societies.**—None.

ORGANISATIONS DISSOLVED.

**Trade Unions.—England and Wales.**—Nuneaton Builders' Labourers' Protective, Accident, and Burial Soc., Half Moon Inn, Abbey-street, Nuneaton; Amalgamated Protection Union of Mechanics and General Labourers, Railway Hotel, North Woolwich-road, E. **Scotland.**—Edinburgh District Tramway Carmen amalgamated with the Amalgamated Association of Tramway and Hackney Carriage Employees and Horsemen in General. **Ireland.**—None.

**Industrial and Provident Societies.—England and Wales.**—Dissolved by instrument: Westley Waterless Industrial and Provident Soc., Ltd., Westley Waterless, Cambridge; Hipperholme Coal Club, Ltd., Towngate, 3, Denholme Gate Road, Hipperholme, Halifax. Liquidators' final return received:—Battersea Total Abstinence Builders' Soc., Ltd., 1, Birley Street, Shaftesbury Park, Battersea, S.W.; Lancashire and Yorkshire Co-op. Productive Soc., Ltd., 1, Balloon Street, Manchester. **Scotland.**—None. **Ireland.**—None.

**Friendly Societies.—England and Wales.**—By instrument of Dissolution: Ordinary Friendly, 6; Female, 4; Juvenile, 1; Branches, 1. Registration cancelled: miscellaneous, 3. Otherwise dissolved: Juvenile, 5; Branches, 5. **Scotland.**—By instrument of dissolution:—Ordinary Friendly, 1. Dissolved otherwise:—Ordinary Friendly, 1; Branches, 6. **Ireland.**—By instrument of dissolution:—One branch.

**Building Societies.—England and Wales.**—Instrument of dissolution, 6; notice of commencement of dissolution, 3; notice of termination of dissolution, 9. **Scotland.**—Notice of termination of dissolution, 1; notice of commencement of winding-up, 1.

EXAMINATION FOR MINING MANAGERS' CERTIFICATES.

**Newcastle District.**—An examination for Certificates of Competency as Manager or Under-Manager of a Mine will be held shortly. Intending candidates should at once communicate with the Secretary to the Examination Board, Mr. M. Walton Brown, Neville Hall, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

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